

Halesowen CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 5, 2018

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CLUB PROBE AFTER FLARE THROWN ONTO PITCH AT DERBY CLASH



A flare is thrown on to the pitch

A CLUB investigation will be launched after a flare was thrown onto the pitch following the non-league derby between Halesowen and Stourbridge.

The smoke bomb was thrown from the away end at The Yeltz's Grove ground on Saturday. The hosts won the game, commonly known as The No.9 Derby, 1-0.

Glassboys' fans also appeared to damage fencing in the closing stages of the encounter. Halesowen plan to hold an investigation. However, when questioned, a Yeltz spokesman said the club did not want to make an official comment.

It is not the first time the clash has been marred by flares being set off.

Extra security measures were brought in for the clash at the weekend following two smoke bombs being thrown at the club's previous meeting, at Stourbridge's War Memorial Ground in Amblecote in October. This included football league stewards being brought

in to work alongside Halesowen's regular stewards, and random searches on entry.

Ahead of the game a Yeltz statement said: "Anyone caught using any pyrotechnics before, during or after the game will be ejected and could face a banning order and prosecution."

"The Number 9 derby is one of the best supported non-league games let's make it enjoyable for everyone."

● Match report – Back page



A fence collapses at The Grove

PRIORITY

Rise in hate crime reports to police

REPORTS of hate crime in the Black Country rose 11 per cent last year, according to new police figures.

A Freedom of Information request found there were 1,633 hate crimes reported in the four boroughs last year – compared to 1,472 in 2016. The increase works out as an 11 per cent year-on-year rise.

Walsall saw the largest growth, with 74 more last year than 2016. Sandwell saw 624 reports in 2017 compared to 463 in 2016, while in Dudley there were 291 in 2017 up from 251 in 2016.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Hate crime is not acceptable and tackling the crime is a police priority."

ALBION

Moore calling for unity at Baggies

CARETAKER boss Darren Moore has urged the Baggies family to unite in the wake of Alan Pardew's departure.

Moore will take the reins for the last six games of the season after Pardew and assistant John Carver left on Monday.

"West Bromwich Albion has always been a family for me," said Moore. "We need to get the unity back among everyone – the players, the staff, the fans, everyone connected with Albion."

ACCIDENT

Lorry driver killed in crash on M-way

PART of the motorway was shut down after a lorry crash killed a 61-year-old man.

Lanes were blocked in both directions of the M5 between junctions 2 for Oldbury and 3 for Halesowen after a lorry smashed into the central reservation at around 5.15pm on Monday.

Its driver was rushed to hospital but was later pronounced dead.

INSIDE

LOOK WHO'S ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL



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Leaders hail initiative for shoppers as shot in the arm

FREE PARKING TO BOOST BUSINESS

BUSINESS chiefs have hailed longer free parking hours in Dudley as a shot in the arm for trade across the borough. The initiative will come into force later this month.

It was hailed by a chamber of trade chairman as 'probably the best thing that could happen for businesses in Dudley'. The scheme will be introduced on April 16 and will allow motorists to be able to park for free for two hours in the borough's town centres.

Council bosses say they move has previously increased footfall across town centres during its test stages.

The investment, which has previously been estimated at a cost of £700,000, follows a trial period last year which saw an initial run between April and July later extended through August.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "It is something we put through full council. We set up a trial across four council car parks for two hours free parking early last year. It was across Sedgley, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Dudley."

Footfall

"That finished at the end of August last year and we had real positive feedback from that with increased footfall in Halesowen."

"We have had really positive feedback from businesses and residents. From the business side of things it is really good because it increased their trade."

"Local shoppers say they particularly like the two hours free parking because if they were popping into Halesowen, for example if they need a bit of shopping, it

By Luke Bartlett

is lovely they are able to park for free for that time."

She added: "We have worked through all of the legalities and we will be going live on the 16th of April on a permanent basis across council car parks."

"We are really pleased because it has increased footfall in the town centres. We had really positive feedback from residents, shoppers and traders – they are all very pleased with the move."

"With the feedback we have had it was clear that the two hours was being called for and something that we wanted to deliver."

Halesowen Chamber of Trade chairman Wayne Edwards has given his backing to the scheme. He says the chamber fought hard to enable the move to go through.

"This is probably the best thing that could happen for businesses in Dudley," he said. "We fought hard with the council to get it in. We actually paid for an independent survey to bring back the two hours."

The scheme is set launch one day after Dudley Council's trial of one hour free parking, which came into action back in October, ends on April 15.

Saddling up for 150-mile challenge



Chris Mason and 'Blind Dave' Heeley get on their bikes

BLIND Dave Heeley, Baggies legends Bob Taylor and Brendon Batson and a former England non-league international are all ready to put pedal power to the test in an upcoming 150-mile ride.

Dave will be joined by Chris Mason on the 156-mile cycle from Swansea to West Bromwich starting today (Thursday).

Chris, an account manager at Smethwick based A&M, is fundraising for the Albion Foundation's disability sports and education projects.

He used to played football for Halesowen and Stourbridge and was a non-league England international.

Playing football wore out his left knee and he was fitted with a new titanium joint two years ago.

A&M manufacture precision components for cars, planes and Formula 1.

Chris said: "Doctors encouraged me to cycle to strengthen my knee, I joined A&M's Cycle to Work scheme and bought a new bike in 2017."

"I've been training by cycling from home in Brierley Hill to A&M in Smethwick."

"I'm looking forward to joining Blind Dave, Bob Taylor and Brendon Batson on the ride, hoping for spring weather."

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Schools share in £83m revamp fund



Castle High will benefit

NEARLY 50 schools across the Black Country and Staffordshire will receive part of a £83.5 million fund to revamp their tatty buildings.

The Department for Education cash has been pledged to improve decrepit facilities, remove asbestos and extend existing buildings.

Hundreds of schools in the West Midlands will get £83.5m, with 48 schools in the Black Country and Staffordshire set to benefit.

The funding is part of £514m being allocated to improve and expand the facilities of schools in England.

The Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) will support 1,556 projects across almost 1,300 academies and sixth-form colleges to help improve conditions of or expand their facilities. Schools submitted bids for funding last year.

Across Dudley, eight schools are lined up for investment. Bishop Milner Catholic College is to get a replacement roof cover, Castle High School will get funding for new pipework and Redhill School in Stourbridge will have a new boiler and roof paid for.

Other projects signed off include Holly Hall Academy (new heating and

water system); Hillcrest School (new pipework and roof); and St Joseph's Catholic Primary on Hillcrest Road (fires safety improvements).

King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, is to receive money towards its expansion project. A total of 27 schools in Staffordshire will get funding.

Minister for the Schools System, Lord Agnew, said: "This funding will transform the condition of school buildings and help our best schools to expand, creating more good school places for families in West Midlands and raising standards for pupils."

Three on the shortlist for mayor's pride award



Lorraine Robbins and John Barrett, Retreat Café

THE three nominees for the Mayor's Pride of Dudley Award have been revealed – with the final winner being decided by a public vote.

Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge, the Retreat Cafe at St Francis' Church in Dudley, and mental health campaigner Jon Mansell will all vie for votes to take the award.

The three nominees have been selected by Dudley Mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, as particularly standing out from the hundreds of visits he has made across the borough during his year in office.

The award will be given out as part of the Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards, due to be held at the Copthorne Hotel, in Brierley Hill, on Friday, April 20.

Councillor Tyler said: "We have three nominees this year, and each of these nominees have given



Stevan Jackson, Mary Stevens hospice chief executive

wonderful service and is well respected throughout the borough.

"The first one is Mary Stevens Hospice. People will be aware of all the good work that they have done and the support and compassion they have offered to many people over the generations.

Struggling

"The second nominee is Jon Mansell, who has done sterling work in the field of mental health. He is not ashamed to say that he himself has suffered mental health issues and he is a very good advocate for supporting people struggling with mental health.

"The third nominee is Retreat Cafe at St Francis Church in Dudley. This little group teach children from disability groups how to work in the catering industry, and they offer a wonderful service to that group as well as to the wider community.



Jon Mansell has been shortlisted for the award

"The public vote is now open and I would urge people to get in touch and vote for their favourite. Whoever wins will be fully deserving of such an award, and I look forward to seeing the result on April 20."

Stevan Jackson, chief executive officer at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "We're delighted to have been nominated for this award, and I look forward to seeing the results on the evening."

Mr Mansell said: "I'm very, very honoured to be nominated for this award by the Mayor of Dudley."

"I've had awards before, and whether I win, lose or draw, it's always an honour to be nominated and I hope I'll get your vote."

John Barrett and Lorraine Robbins, of the Retreat Cafe, added: "We're absolutely thrilled and amazed to be nominated, it was totally unexpected, so fingers crossed."

To vote, visit mayorofdudley.org.uk, before the deadline tomorrow (Friday).

Children's hospital in £10k law firm boost

STAFF from a Black Country law firm have pledged their support to help Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Talbots Law named the hospital's specialist paediatric centre as its 'Charity of the Year' and has already presented it with a £10,000 donation to help it deliver treatments, complex surgical procedures and cutting-edge research to young people up to the age of 16.

Talbots has seven offices, including in Halesowen and Stourbridge, and employees were invited to nominate their preferred good causes.

"There was a lot of personal stories of families and friends that have been helped and supported by Birmingham Children's Hospital so the decision was a comprehensive one," said Mary Mocklow, chief executive of Talbots Law.

"Ian Bond and I visited Eloise Davidson and Paul Moore at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity to present the cheque and find out a little bit more about the amazing care they provide every day of the week, every week of the year."

Eloise Davidson, corporate fundraising manager at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, said: "We are truly thankful for the hard work Talbots Law has put into raising such a fantastic amount."

"The funds will make a huge difference to the lives of our brave children."

Alcohol overdose of homeless man

A 47-YEAR-OLD homeless man who was an alcoholic died overdosing on drink, an inquest heard.

Steven Garrett was found unresponsive on open land by police near his tent in Priory Road, Dudley, on January 21. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr Garrett, from Tipton, had a history of being an alcoholic. His family tried to help him but Mr Garrett cut off contact with them. Black Country Coroner's Court heard. Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "Patrol officers found him unresponsive."

A doctor concluded Mr Garrett died of respiratory failure due to alcohol intoxication. He was just over four times the drink drive limit.

Coroner Siddique concluded Mr Garrett died of an alcohol related death.

Tribute to Beatles

A BEATLES tribute act will rock out at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on July 13. Doors open for the Mersey Beatles at 8pm with the show due to start at 9pm. Tickets cost £15 and can be bought online at bhilleicivc.co.uk

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Police hunt occupants after BMW hits a wall



The BMW careers into a wall in Lye

POLICE are hunting the occupants of a BMW that careered into a wall and left another car badly damaged.

It is thought a man found seriously injured nearby was in the BMW 318 when the driver lost control on Stourbridge Road, Lye, close to the junction with Timmis Road.

The car also smashed into a telecommunications box near The Pump House and left a Vauxhall Vectra parked up by the apartment block severely damaged.

Police were called to the scene at around 1.10am on Friday. Nobody other than those in the vehicle were reported as being injured. The casualty was found in nearby Lewis Road soon afterwards and taken to hospital for treatment.

There is no suggestion that the BMW had been reported as stolen.

Resident Roger Pitt, aged 66, who has lived on Stourbridge Road for 50 years, said: "I got up in the early hours of the morning and the road was cordoned off.

"There have been a number of incidents on this road. It is not an isolated incident."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting log 114 of 30/03/18.

Popular display on Duncan extended

AN exhibition in honour of Black Country football great Duncan Edwards will stay on display for an extra month following an 'amazing' response.

Visitors to Dudley Archives and Local History Centre have been able to view a wide range of memorabilia and football programmes relating to the life of the Dudley-born Busby Babe since January.

The exhibition, which also includes some of his England caps, posters, artwork, photographs, press cuttings and personal correspondence, was due to close on March 30.

But it has been confirmed it will instead remain open until April 28 having proven popular with people across the Black Country and further afield.

Health alert sparks Karen's cancer call



Karen Garrison and daughter Lucy

A CRADLEY Heath district nurse is urging people to take quick action to prevent bowel cancer, after she sought help immediately following an early warning sign.

After Karen Garrison spotted blood in her stools she knew it could be a sign of the disease.

The mum-of-two's swift action in going straight to her GP meant her bowel cancer was diagnosed early and, after treatment with surgery and chemotherapy, Karen is now in remission.

That is why the 47-year-old assis-

tant Brownie leader is keen to get the message out across the Black Country that early diagnosis saves lives. Cancer Research UK says early detection is vital. If someone is diagnosed early they have a 91 per cent chance of survival.

The national bowel screening programme sees every person in the UK who is registered with a GP practice receive a bowel cancer home testing kit on their 60th birthday.

Karen said: "My mum had a history of diverticular disease so my main worry was that it could

be that. I knew blood in the stools could also be a sign of cancer, but I hadn't lost any weight and I felt absolutely fine in myself."

After being fast-tracked to Russell Hall's colorectal clinic Karen had a sigmoidoscopy which showed a tumour in her bowel. Luckily, a further CT scan showed there were no secondary tumours, and Karen had an operation to remove the tumour and part of her bowel. After recovering from the surgery, she began a six month course of chemotherapy in April 2012.

Corbyn: I will rid Labour party of anti-semitism

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn returned to the Dudley borough for the second time in a few weeks and defended himself against the raging anti-semitism storm.

Mr Corbyn, on a visit to Wall Heath ahead of May's local elections, told supporters he was disgusted by anti-semitic posts on social media and insisted: "None of it is done in my name." He vowed he will fight anti-semitism 'to my dying day'.

Mr Corbyn insisted he was committed to ridding the party of anti-semitic views. The party has been engulfed in a row over anti-semitism with some Labour MPs – including Dudley North's Ian Austin – accusing the leadership of not doing enough to tackle it. But on Easter Monday's visit, Mr Corbyn said: "I do not approve of it at all."

He added abusive and racist comments on social media accounts claiming to support him in no way represented his own views. "I'm disgusted by any anti-semitic comments or any other kind of racist comments placed on social media accounts and it has no place on social media and no place in our society," he said.

Facebook

A media report claimed more than 2,000 anti-semitic, racist and abusive messages had been found on Facebook groups supporting the Labour leader. He has deleted his personal Facebook account.

Dudley South Conservative MP Mike Wood joked that the Labour leader had chosen his constituency because 'he knew he would get a friendlier welcome than in Dudley North' – that of Labour MP, and regular Corbyn critic, Ian Austin.

But the Tory MP, and former Dudley councillor, hit out at Mr Corbyn's failure to decisively respond to anti-semitism accusations. Mr Corbyn hit back, saying: "We have a process for people who commit anti-semitic abuse. It is investigated and, if appropriate, they will be suspended."

He spoke to residents on doorsteps during his visit to Wall Heath, where he was supporting council candidates ahead of May's local elections.

Mr Wood, also out campaigning, said: "Nobody thinks he is racist but the fact Jeremy is unable to recognise and deal with serious allegations of racism within his party shows he's unable or unfit to lead the country."



Jeremy Corbyn is welcomed to Wall Heath by candidate Damian Corfield and Councillor Pete Lowe



Jeremy Corbyn is given a custom-made cookie



Mr Corbyn and Wall Heath candidate Damian Corfield

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iconic move as band makes final

YOUNG rockers The Icon have reached the grand final of the Soundwaves Music Competition.

The group, whose members include Tom Withers from Kingswinford, are now one step closer to reaching their goal of becoming a high profile touring band.

The action happened at Liverpool's O2 Academy after snow had caused the original date to be postponed. The final will be in Birmingham and has been pencilled in for June 9.

When the date is confirmed, tickets will go on sale.

The band is now based in Liverpool and frontman Tom Harrison, aged 19, from Penkridge, said: "It was great to see all the fans that came up to support us. There was some great competition and we're very grateful for the opportunity and very pleased to have made it through to the final."

Mothers beat their fundraising goal

A GROUP of mothers smashed their fundraising target during an event to raise cash for a charity.

The autistic pupils' mothers organised events at Dudley's Woodsetton School in aid of the National Autistic Society. They raised nearly £2,000 – four times their £500 target – with all of the proceeds going to the charity.

Organiser Joanne Haddock, aged 31, from Coseley, said: "I'd like to thank everybody who has supported."

Kate Vickers, of the National Autistic Society, said: "We are really grateful for their support."

Photographer in camera club talk

A PHOTOGRAPHER gives a talk to Hagley Camera Club next week.

Rosie Hardy, fashion, portrait and conceptual art photographer, is giving a talk entitled 365 Days of Creativity at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley, next Tuesday, from 8.30pm.

She will show some of her portfolio.

Tickets are available in advance for £9 or £10 on the door and includes entry into the charity raffle with proceeds going to the Tim Bacon Foundation, supporting cancer charities.

Contact chair@hagleycameraclub.co.uk

Man found dead

A MAN was found dead at a home in Stourbridge. Police entered the property in South Road, Norton, at around 1pm on Good Friday. A man's body was found inside. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

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4 80 homes plan set for derelict industrial plot

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AMBITIOUS plans to build 80 houses on a derelict industrial site in Dudley containing asbestos and mine shafts have been put forward.

C B Collier DY Limited wants to develop the former Midlands Electricity Board (MEB) site in Bull Street.

St James's ward councillor Cathryn Bayton welcomed the proposals but called on developers to include social housing.

She said: "As long as the development is a mixed tenure and includes social housing and family homes we welcome it."

The application has been recommended for approval by Dudley Council.

A council report said: "Due to the previous industrial uses on the site it is contaminated with asbestos, hydrocarbons and other contaminants."

"Records held by the Coal Authority indicate there are coal mining features and hazards, which have been considered in relation to the determination of this planning application, specifically both actual and probable shallow coal mine workings, thick coal outcrops and recorded mine entries (shafts)."

"The site used to be an MEB depot where electrical generating and distribution took place. Historically a railway line also ran through the site. The majority of the site has been cleared and currently there are a number of spoil mounds with it."

The plans tie in with the council's 'brownfield first policy' on new housing developments. The land is opposite Dudley Cemetery.

Two face dog charges

TWO men accused of causing unnecessary suffering to 22 dogs are set to stand trial. Christopher Hadley, 60, from Clyde Street, Cradley Heath, and 55-year-old Warwick Hadley of Mount Pleasant, Quarry Bank will appear at Dudley Magistrates Court on June 27. They each deny charges, of not providing fresh drinking water, and not properly investigating or addressing the dogs' poor body condition.

We hope nobody has to suffer like we have

'I JUST hope the hospital makes improvements so nobody else suffers like we have had to.'

The words of Louise and Craig Oakley after Dudley's NHS Trust admitted liability for their son Myles' death – and agreed to a 'substantial undisclosed settlement'.

The parents say three years on, they are still coming to terms with their loss. Louise, 40, said: "The agony of losing Myles is something that neither of us will fully ever get over."

Myles' death is among dozens of cases that led to serious failings being uncovered in the quality of maternity services at Russells Hall between April 2014 and December 2015. In all, 43 serious incidents were reported – with 25 re-examined amid concerns over how they were originally investigated.

Hospital bosses have offered their 'sincere condolences' to the couple. Craig, from Dudley, said: "I wouldn't wish the pain our family has gone through on anyone."

Deteriorate

Louise went to hospital on May 7, 2015, to give birth. But Myles' condition began to deteriorate and Louise was given drugs to speed up the labour.

Myles was in distress but was not delivered until after 10pm. He was born in a poor state and had to be resuscitated. He deteriorated further and his parents took the heartbreaking decision to turn off Myles' life-support machine the day after his birth.

He was found to have died from a brain injury caused by a lack of oxygen, an infection and antepartum bleeding.

A 'detailed clinical review' has since been carried out with hospital bosses putting an improvement plan in place.

A report by the Dudley Maternity Quality Improvement Board said the trust's maternity services were now 'safer and more clinically effective'.



Craig and Louise Oakley – still coming to terms with their loss



Myles died the day after being born in May 2015



Russells Hall Hospital, where Myles was born

Suspended term for ex-partner over blackmail

A SPURNED lover threatened to post revealing images of his ex on the internet after she dumped him, a court heard.

Michael Greening initially demanded £200 from the woman, who lived in the Dudley area, warning her that he would put the pictures on social media sites if she did not comply.

Instead she went to the police and Greening, aged 34, ended up at Wolverhampton Crown Court on a charge of blackmail.

He started seeing the victim after her marriage broke down but she ended the relationship after only a short time because she wanted to be reconciled with her husband, said Mr Ekwall Tiwana, prosecuting.

However, Greening began sending her messages threatening to make public 'quite provocative' images of her and to tell her family unless she handed over money, the court heard.

Passing a 15-month jail term, suspended for two years, the judge warned Greening he had come dangerously close to being locked up immediately but he said he held back because of the defendant's learning difficulties and previous good character.

Recorder Jason Macadam said: "Blackmail is one of the most serious crimes you can commit. You are extremely fortunate not to be going to prison for a considerable amount of time."

Greening, of Grafton Lane, Bidford, Wiltshire, pleaded guilty to blackmail and was also handed a five-year restraining order and ordered to carry out 25 days of rehabilitation activities.

Women and Great War

A MAJOR conference and jamboree will explore how the First World War affected the place of women in society.

It takes place at the Black Country Museum in Dudley on April 13-14 and will look at the ripple-effect both during the conflict and following the 1918 armistice.

The event will include a 1918 centenary jamboree evening at the end of the first day, with live music and fish and chips.

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Jacky Standish

ATTRACTIVE, confident and with a contagious laugh – that's professional chef, Jacky Standish.

Looking younger than her 57 years, Jacky has recently drawn up an unusual "bucket list", though she's quick to point out: "I'm not dying."

For Jacky, who was so ashamed of her teeth she walked her dog at 5am to avoid meeting people, clever dentistry at North Street has marked a new life chapter, punctuated with a list of the all places she's only dreamed of dining.

The former chef and house manager at Hagley Hall has undergone a major transformation after gum disease ruined her smile, confidence and her ability to chew properly.

Now, with four implants retaining an upper overdenture and a partial lower traditional prosthetic, she's thrilled with her new look. "My jaw is sore from smiling so much. No-one would ever know they are not my natural teeth," she says.



Theresa Reardon

WHEN Theresa Reardon from London set out to fix a longstanding dental problem she never imagined it would take a lifetime's search before finding the answer in Dudley.

Even a trip as a dental tourist to Budapest failed to help the 82-year-old.

After a lifetime of denture troubles, it was during a visit to a friend at Wolverhampton she found fresh hope in a newspaper article. For eight years the former Queen's Household domestic kept the cutting about the work of Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC108353.

"I read it over and over again, then one day booked an appointment," she recalls.

"I could never bite an apple – the bottom denture was all over the place – but the day I had my new dentures I went out and had a steak. Steven has done for me what no other dentist has. It's been a long time coming, I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth any more."



Vicki Ball

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them and she's gushing with the praise about her new smile.

A retired community midwife, who was based in Wordsley, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth."

Adding, "you can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute.

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my uncomfortable dentures.

I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out." Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower prosthetic and the prescribing of high quality, traditional upper dentures to help support facial features.

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.



John Clews

JOHN Clews is sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people like me hope," he declares.

The skilled die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – and with multiple failing teeth, instinctively realised that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years he endured daily toothache, but crippled by fear of the dentist, avoided treatment until he could no longer tolerate the problems.

"I came here [North Street] and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life," he adds.

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and other remedial work,

John is now able to live his life without having to worry about his teeth.

And the dental phobia? "All staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease."

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Comic shows emotion over Jamaica visit

DUDLEY-BORN comedian Sir Lenny Henry has said he became emotional confronting the issue of slavery in a new documentary.

Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid, which aired on Easter Monday, saw the comic visit Jamaica.

Sir Lenny said the issue was 'like a big stone on my heart' as he visited a rum plantation, where 400 slaves once worked.

He said: "To walk up these steps... to see where all these people used to work...these are my ancestors. So to be in this place where this stuff used to happen is a shock. I couldn't wait to get out of there."

The BBC documentary investigates his own heritage and the relationship between the Commonwealth, the Caribbean and the UK. Sir Lenny, a Comic Relief campaigner, who made his name by winning New Faces aged 18 in 1975, also visited the land where his mother once lived.

He said: "I expected there to be a house...I didn't expect there to be a ruin."

My mum used to walk miles and miles with water and laundry. She was a subsistence farmer with my dad...and it was a punishing, gruelling existence."

Sir Lenny said of the subject of the documentary: "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the Commonwealth...let's celebrate it. Also I'm a Knight Of The Realm...I was assaulted by an old lady with a sword."

Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid was on BBC One and should still be available on the iPlayer.

New table top sale

A NEW weekly table top sale has been set up at Dudley Market this week. For £5, traders can set up stalls selling second-hand goods on a Monday from 9am to 4pm. Book by calling 01384 231635.

Action demand as traveller camps are on the increase

Joy at grant to restore headstones



Friends of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery. Pictured is treasurer Rob Skelding, with, back, left to right: Sue Smith, Raymond Griffiths, Neville Coss, and Gelda Timm

A FRIENDS group which cares for a cemetery has secured £5,000 towards restoring historic graves and headstones.

The money was granted to Friends of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery thanks to a local community forum

run by Dudley Council. Robert Skelding, treasurer of the group in Stourbridge, said: "We are really pleased about securing the money. We can do quite a lot with £5,000. We estimated we need more than £20,000 overall to make a real impact."

"We will have to lay headstones down because it will become dangerous. We want to bring it back up to spec and make it look nice."

The group helps to maintain the Lye and Wollescote Cemetery, based on Spring Street.

ILLEGAL traveller camps are on the rise in Dudley with the number increasing by more than 250 per cent in the past five years. Figures show there were nine illegal camps in 2013.

However, this rose each year until 2017 when the total was 34 - a rise of 278 per cent. Now, figures, released under Freedom Information, show there were 123 camps set up between 2013 and 2017 - with around one appearing on average every two weeks.

It comes after council bosses drew up plans to allocate a temporary travellers site in Coseley.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley claimed the number would 'double' unless the local authority stepped in and said the figures justified building a temporary travellers site in the borough.

The move has been opposed by residents and ward councillors in Coseley over fears of an increase in crime and the proposed land being contaminated.

Backyard

Councillor Harley said: "These figures really justify why there is a need for a temporary transit site. Everybody seems to accept we need one but the problem is no-one wants one in their backyard."

"This is the best course of action and if we don't take that, the figure will double. Sandwell Council has one, South Staffordshire Council. We are well down the road to having our own."

In 2014 there were 19 illegal camps, 28 in 2015 and 33 in 2016.

A transit site would give police and the council new powers to deal with illegal camps. Travellers would be forced to move to the site and pay rent, or be told to leave the borough.

Councillors have approved plans to build a transit site on council-owned land on Budden Road.

Future plans come under the spotlight

DEVELOPMENTS for part of Dudley town centre are all to be discussed with residents at a drop-in session.

A council team will look to discuss ongoing proposals for Wolverhampton Street and Inhedge Park with residents.

Following works tackling housing and waste enforcement issues, the council will look to engage residents in conversation about the future of the sites on April 17.

The event will be at the DY1 Community Building on Stafford Street, Dudley, at 4pm. Residents are also invited to a group discussion between 6 and 8pm.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place, said: "These proposals form part of the transformation of Dudley."

"This event is an opportunity for people to find out what developments have taken place."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Litter louts just tip me over the edge

WHICH crime has the biggest impact on your life? Murder? Knife crime, drugs?

While these are clearly very serious, they are offences that thankfully affect very few of us on a daily basis. What really affects me, day in, day out is not violent crime, but litter. With graffiti coming a very close second.

The most infuriating thing is that there is no justification or mitigation for committing these offences. Nobody ever drops litter because they are poor or hungry. It is never a crime of passion or a moment of madness. It is always, without exception, a crime committed because the offender is too arrogant and self-centred to give a thought for anybody but themselves.

A couple of weeks ago I saw a young lad drop litter in the town centre, and was secretly bricking it as I pointed out his misdemeanour in front of his rowdy friends. A few years ago, I watched a young girl toss a fast-food carton out of the car window while stuck in traffic, and did what any responsible member of the public would do - and tossed it back in. I regretted when her mother tried to pull the mirror off my car and chased me for two miles, but I guess you've gotta make a stand.

So I suppose I should be glad that our local councils are promising to crack down on litter louts with "zero-tolerance" hit squads, but I have my doubts. Dudley is now following the lead of Wolverhampton by using the services of Kingdom Security, which issues miscreants with spot fines. Better still, the wardens cost the councils nothing, as Kingdom makes its money from the fines. Everyone's a winner, right?

It didn't quite work that way when Kingdom officers were employed in Maidstone, Kent. The council dispensed with Kingdom's services last year after a woman was fined for feeding ducks in the River Medway. In The Wirral, Kingdom wardens fined David Ellis for unknowingly dropping a bookmark from his book. In Ruthin, North Wales, 68-year-old Ann Coleman was fined £75 for accidentally dropping a receipt.

Maybe this is a price worth paying if it stops the real louts from dropping litter in the street, but I won't hold my breath. Private litter wardens are driven by revenue, and it is hard to see them challenging a gang of bona-fide yobs throwing down chip papers when they get paid the same for fining a little old lady feeding the ducks.

Zero tolerance is rarely the answer. It's throwing the book at hardened louts that gets results.

This crime of our age is not going to go away



Mary Berry - accused of 'fat shaming' after comment on the size of fellow chef



Nathan Outlaw - laughed off comment amount his weight but some took umbrage



Sir Stephen Hillier - and now even Air Chief Marshals are looking younger

Fat chance of no bitterness shown

SLENDER Mary Berry stands accused of "fat shaming" after commenting on the size of fellow chef Nathan Outlaw. She suggested that Nathan, a keen surfer, would put "a bit of weight on that board." He laughed it off but some viewers took instant umbrage and accused Berry of rudeness. Fat-shaming is a crime of our age and you might think an enlightened society would eventually shun it. But I don't think it will go away. I bet fat-shaming will increase - and this is may be the reason why. There is serious talk of the Government raising a special ring-fenced tax exclusively to pay for the health service. This means, for the first time, we will all see in our wage packets how much of our hard-earned money is going to the NHS. Obesity costs the NHS about £16,000 million a year. Some experts believe it could eventually bankrupt the NHS. See how some bitterness might creep in? You can just hear it - you're wasting my money, fatso.

FUNNY old world. I always assumed I voted to leave the EU in 2016 because I am a bit dim, poorly educated and dislike foreigners. I learn from this week's revelations to the Commons media committee that I actually voted for Brexit because my personal data had been secretly "mined" from Facebook and used to bombard me with subliminal online messages (even though I'm not on Facebook). This is good news for it means I am no longer an imbecile but a victim. So tell me where do I get my compensation?

FOR somebody who isn't anti-semitic, doesn't Jeremy Corbyn does seem to spend an awful lot of time apologising for anti-semitism?

BUT then it's understandable. Right at the

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



heart of the Labour movement is total, unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and a visceral hatred of international capitalism. If some mischief-maker whispers into the ear of a dedicated young activist that the Zionists are the enemy in both these epic struggles, it can seem to make sense. The "pockets of anti-semitism" Jeremy Corbyn apologises for today are actually part of a contagion of blaming the Jews which has infested Europe for more than 1,000 years.

A GLUM report by the World Wide Fund for Nature calculates that making a single portion of Welsh lamb cawl stew causes as much pollution as driving 31 miles, or 5.9 kilograms of greenhouse gases. I don't know how you reacted to this news but it reminded me how long it had been since I'd had a bowl of delicious, thick lamb stew. Stuff the planet, I want my cawl. So that's definitely on the menu for tomorrow. Thanks for the reminder, WWF. Just the occasional treat, you understand.

THE "just a treat" philosophy can be seen everywhere this week. Yes, of course we want an end to overpackaging with plastic. But not until Easter is over, okay? The supermarket aisles are packed with chocolate eggs framed in single-use black plastic trays, wrapped in foil then wrapped again in more black plastic and seen-through plastic, enough to choke a whole colony of turtles. The excuse for this orgy of planet-polluting excess is that Easter comes

only once a year and what's the harm with the occasional treat? The same argument is trotted out for Bonfire Night when all our pious words about having air that's fit to breathe vanish into a sulphurous cloud of fireworks and burning pallets. It's just a treat, innit? Like the cupcakes handed out at charity coffee mornings: let's fight cancer by giving everybody diabetes. The problem with the "just a treat" approach is that we want our treats every day of the year. And the more that po-faced experts warn us of the consequences, the more delicious that treat seems.

THE Royal Air Force is celebrating its 100th anniversary and its chief officer Sir Stephen Hillier is doing the media rounds to promote the event. As we reach a certain age we get used to police, MPs, headteachers and bishops seeming unnaturally youthful. I hadn't noticed until this week that Air Chief Marshals are looking younger.

I SEND as few emails as possible. I never text. I don't use social media. And yet, oh folly, in an unguarded moment I recently sent a friend an image of my lunch, cleverly re-arranged into a cheerful face with a big pastie nose and a smile of roast potatoes. As you do. Goodness knows what the global data-filching industry will make of this. Clearly Citizen Rhodes enjoys pasties and has an artistic bent, and too much time on his hands.

TALKING of iconic animals, I cannot be the only person alarmed to see the burger chain McDonald's has a promotional partnership with the makers of the new Peter Rabbit film. Run, Peter! For God's sake, run!

TALKING POINT



TV choice is what you want not everything

I REMEMBER when you could put a telly anywhere in the house and you would get some kind of signal, before you even put some kind of aerial in the back of it.

What's happened to those days? It was so simple. Buy a TV, maybe a portable, fiddle about with the dials a bit and the aerial on top and hey presto! instant access to four, or maybe even five channels.

Having switched over to digital - without any public consultation that I can remember, or maybe I just didn't understand the concept - I'm sure I am not alone when I say the service is useless in comparison.

My household pays for Sky, we have it plugged into two TVs, via cumbersome cables, straight from the dish. But even then it's sometimes hit and miss as to the quality of the picture, and we don't exactly live out in the sticks.

Try to get a signal without any direct input from the supplier - ie with a portable aerial which I now seem to have a boxful of because they're all useless - and you're on a hiding to nothing.

Yes, there's Netflix, or Amazon firesticks, or whatever they're called - fine if you can afford it on top of the costs of a generic provider, but hold on, don't we all pay a TV licence?

I yearn for the days when it was simply a matter of turning on one little switch and not worrying about scrolling down hundreds of channels and wading through countless second-rate moralistic American police-based dramas, or the constant re-runs of Only Fools and Horses.

I'm not even going to mention 15-year-old Top Gear shows, where the cars they feature have long-since been put out to pasture in some great scrapyard in the sky.

It is a salient observation, but we have now reached absolute saturation point with the communications and entertainments available to us via the screen, which once was just a box in the corner blasting out programming, with the only choice being whether you could put up with advert breaks or not.

I mean, if we have any say in it at all, can't we demand that if we don't want external services such as Sky, and want to rely purely on Freeview, isn't it enough that there is a TV licence fee?

Alternatively, why should we have to pay for a licence, if we don't watch anything other than programmes via Netflix, Sky or Amazon etc.

There needs to be a change now, choice doesn't mean having everything available, it means cutting out what you don't want and concentrating purely on what you do want.

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A ditty to offer hope for the Hippo

Save our Hippodrome – a poem

I know it's been neglected and in need of a bit of paint,
And if Dudley Council says it's past it, I'm telling you it ain't.

Why don't they show enthusiasm and back our campaign,
To bring back our Hippo to glory and its original fame.

To the cynics who say we are living in the past,
The Hippo could be renovated as a

theatre for everyone, and more important – it could last.

In a world when it's easier to knock down than preserve,
I think to renovate our famous theatre is what the people of Dudley deserve.

Why don't Dudley Council be brave and encourage groups like us,
Who believe in the history and the heritage of Dudley instead of blocking and making a fuss?

If saved and renovated this theatre could be the new heart and soul of Dudley, with evening shows and events in the day.

Or do they prefer to bulldoze and ignore what the people of Dudley say?

The people, the electorate are watching how they conduct themselves during this emotional time, whether they take or give.

I hope they decide to be decent and brave and let our wonderful Hippo live.

MAC SCOTT MBE
Dudley Hippodrome Group

Don't just erase our town's past

A HOUSE which we lived in, Waverley House, Drews Holloway, Colley Gate, still stands in its Edwardian setting. Opposite is the last property of a row of Victorian middle class houses – Noah Hingley's, all replaced by modern houses.

Hingley's house should be rebuilt after transfer to the Black Country Museum together with a background account of Hingley's Iron Works and the full history of the items made for the Titanic and sister ships. Years ago we lived in High Haden Road and joined the protest against the demolition of Haden Hall – now the two halls stand as gems which would have gone.

Surely Halesowen has lost a number of historic buildings which could have been incorporated in the modern design of the town around the Norman church.

Let us put as much of the heritage and history of the area on the map – memories fade in a very short time.

MR R T SLIM
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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EU is still in driving seat for negotiations

DAVID Davis has shown again that the EU is in the driving seat for the Brexit negotiations. Sovereignty, which leavers mistakenly think we have lost and will regain with Brexit, has been put on hold for 21 months, until December 2020. This is to allow Davis to complete his 'falling off a log' negotiations. Which now means, 'I will fall over myself to get any deal possible from the EU'.

Meanwhile, thousands of extra staff are needed by various government agencies and departments to run Britain when it is separate from the EU. Yet more cost eating into the fictitious £350m a week benefit to be had from Brexit.

The irony is, of course, that we will not gain any increase in sovereignty through all this process.

DAVID TAYLOR
Wombourne

Church was still open in the snow

WELL, how quickly we close down things at the sign of snow and bad weather.

Not just schools and events, but churches as well shut their doors at the drop of a hat, or should I say a snowflake.

So I just wanted to say that whether it's the 'Big Beast from the East' or the 'Mini Beast from the East', or even one of the beasts in the book of Revelations in the Bible, the Dudley Baptist Church in Priory Road, was open for business, the Lord's business, last Sunday evening.

Around 80 people attended worship, in spite of the wintry conditions and I joined them, though not a member of their fellowship. I thought to myself, 'I bet their church will be open,' a sure and certain bet, and it was.

So I was blessed and impressed.

Thank you my Christian friends.
RAY BADDAMS
Dudley

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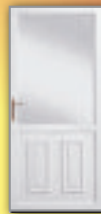
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Homebase owners in approach to buyers

Museum delivers colliery



Michelle Darby with Charlie the pit pony at Black Country Museum

A COLLIERY has been restored at the Black Country Living Museum to show what life was like for people working 'on the surface'.

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive of the Tipton Road attraction, said: "This is an important part of Black Country history for us to bring to life for our visitors."

"We are truly grateful to our generous supporters who have made

this new attraction possible." The revamped attraction is called the Racecourse Colliery and has a number of features to bring it to life, including lighting and sound effects and a pit cage showing how coal was lifted out the mine.

A pit pony called Charlie is on hand to demonstrate how coal was transported along the colliery, on a newly restored tramway.

THE Australian owner of DIY chain Homebase has begun to approach potential buyers just two years after a disastrous £340m takeover.

Wesfarmers is working with investment bankers Lazard to review options for the future of the chain of nearly 250 stores which includes Oldbury.

Wesfarmers has already cleared out the managerial team after buying it in 2016 and replaced them with an all-Australian leadership team, but this has failed to turn it around.

Homebase made a £97m loss before tax over the second half of last year and Wesfarmers was forced to write-down the value of the UK business by £550m.

The most likely outcome of the review is expected to be an outright sale of the business, which was founded in 1979 as a joint venture between Sainsbury's and Belgian retailer BG Inno.

Trebled

Its boom years were in the 1980s, when it trebled in size after taking over rival Texas Homecare. Wesfarmers has begun re-branding Homebase stores, mainly in the south of England, as Bunning DIY - a successful Aussie brand.

Last month the company announced the closure of up to 40 Homebase branches and said it was "keeping all options open". Homebase is now part of Wesfarmers' Bunnings UK and Ireland division.

The last half year saw a 15.7 per cent slump in revenue to £517m.

A spokesman for Homebase confirmed the strategic review was ongoing but did not comment on whether potential buyers had been approached.

Homebase was previously part of Home Retail Group, which also included Argos. This was split up when Homebase was sold to Wesfarmers and Argos was bought by Sainsbury's.

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A mugshot of Catherine Legg, right, with her handwritten note



Isaac Ellery, right, who was sent to the colonies for stealing cushions



Archives give insight to Victorian criminals

HAUNTING images of crime suspects arrested more than 160 years ago have been released in a series of police custody images believed to be among the oldest of their kind. The photographs of Isaac Ellery and Catherine Legge were taken by Birmingham police back in the 1850s and are accompanied with handwritten notes by the suspected offenders.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Tom Oakley

Ellery was convicted in 1853 for stealing 'gig cushions' and sentenced to seven years 'transportation' – a Victorian punishment that saw offenders shipped to the colonies to serve sentences abroad. But it appears even that failed to change his ways as he was convicted again in

1860 for producing counterfeit coins. Details surrounding the alleged offences of Legge are unclear but these images provide a glimpse of policing more than a century-and-a-half ago – and show how mugshots of suspected criminals captured by West Midlands Police have changed over the years. In the early days, officers used Birmingham's Moor Street public office cells and prisoners would be marched round to the nearby photographic studio and pose for pictures


amongst paying customers. The force started producing its own photographs in around 1870 when those being held were snapped holding a chalk board with their details. In 1891 a photographic studio, including a dark room, was created in the lock-up offices and styles of photos changed. There were periods where those arrested were asked to put their hands out in front of their body; and then in front of a number of mirrors giving a number of angles.

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "Over the years, advances in technology have seen the introduction of colour, computer databases and different styles... but the principle of bringing those convicted of offending to justice has remained the same." To find out more about early prisoner photography follow @WMPHistory on Twitter and Instagram, or visit WMPeels.com. Old custody pictures can be found by searching the #MugshotMonday hashtag.

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It's the end of the line as fishmonger reels it in

HE has had his own place at Brierley Hill Indoor Market for more than six decades.

Now fishmonger Geoff Brown has now left his perch for the final time.

Geoff, aged 68, has been involved with the business since he was just four years old when he started out helping his father Bob.

He was the third generation to run Brown's Fishmongers - which has had a presence at the market since it opened in the 1930s.

Geoff's grandfather Ted was succeeded by Bob, who handed the reins over when his son was just 17.

Geoff said: "I've started helping my dad out at the age of four. They used to use a piece of grease proof for the fish and wrap it in newspaper."

"My job used to be to rip up the paper. In those days the market was very busy and I spent a lot of time there as a kid."

School

As a youngster, Geoff continued helping out his father on Fridays - which meant missing out on school for that day.

He explained: "I never went to school on Fridays. Then I took over from my dad when I was 17. That's when I started having to get up at 4am and go to Birmingham Wholesale Market."

Early rises have been part of Geoff's routine since he took over the mantle from his father. Geoff said he had had help from his sons Paul and David, and daughter Lyn, while he had been in sole charge at the market.

But his children have chosen to follow their own careers, meaning it is the end of an era for Brown's Fishmongers. His fellow traders gave him a



Steve Bridgwater hands over champagne



Geoff's pocket watch



Traders give fishmonger Geoff Brown a send-off on his retirement

fitting send-off at the market over the weekend, handing over an engraved pocket watch and bottle of bubbly.

And Geoff now hopes to spend more time with his girlfriend Edith Brookes in his retirement - as well as seeing his five grandchildren.

He said: "My children all helped me out at different times, but they don't want to continue it as they've got their

own lives. It's been a very good life but it's a good time to move on."

"My customers were more like my friends than family. Some of the things they've written in the cards are unbelievable."

"I probably wouldn't have retired but now I've met Edith I want to spend quality time with her as well as the kids and grandchildren."

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Council's joy after business moves in

COUNCIL chiefs have welcomed a business which is the latest tenant at the DY5 enterprise zone.

Financial advice firm Prosperity Wealth has moved into a 12,000 sq ft office situated at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill.

It is the latest firm to relocate and reap the benefits of DY5, Dudley's business and innovation enterprise zone.

Under the scheme, there are various advantages for businesses, including business rate relief for five years, superfast broadband, a central location and improved transport links when the new Metro line opens.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for planning and economic development said: "The enterprise zone offers fantastic ready to move into office accommodation to suit any business and I'm delighted Prosperity Wealth has chosen DY5 as the location to continue the successful growth of their business.

"DY5 will support Prosperity Wealth and any other business that want to relocate.

"Together we can build a successful enterprise that breathes new life into the area and supports the growth of the local economy."

New babies swing into life at zoo



The baby lar gibbon with mother Meo at Dudley zoo

ZOO keepers at Dudley Zoological Gardens are celebrating the arrival of three baby primates born at the attraction.

Two little lemurs and a lar gibbon were all born at the zoo last month – both species classed as endangered in the wild.

The baby lar gibbon was born on March 14, and is the third baby to mother Meo and father Huggy. Their other offspring are six-year-old Penny and three-year-old Indah.

The twin ring-tailed lemurs arrived on March 18, and are the 13th and 14th babies produced at Dudley Zoo by mother Phoebe and father Frank.

Pat Stevens, upper primates section leader, said: "It has been very busy on the primates section over the past week and we are so happy.

"All the youngsters are clinging to their mums, feeding fine and doing very well. We won't know what sex they are for several weeks and will then come up with some suitable names."

Anger as loo roll is removed at school

A SCHOOL has come under fire after its headteacher decided to remove toilet paper from the pupils' loos.

It is believed Oldswinford Primary School acting headteacher, Jo Seker, told pupils they would have to ask for toilet roll if they wanted to use the bathroom – then return it to teachers afterwards.

But Mrs Seker has defended her decision – and said a number of incidents with pupils in the Stourbridge school's bathrooms had prompted the ban. She said: "In recent weeks we have had a number of isolated incidents in school of disappointing behaviour in the bathrooms which have caused flooding, damage and temporary closure of facilities.

"To avoid any further incidents we have introduced a temporary system until lockable dispensers are installed. We are not limiting the amount of toilet roll children can use." Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of the Dudley UKIP Group, said the 'world had gone mad'.

Alert as masked men ram garage in attempted raid

STAFFORDSHIRE Police is asking people to stay vigilant after an attempted burglary near Stourbridge.

Three to four white men in balaclavas were spotted driving into a garage door on Hyperion Road, Stourton, around 5pm on Tuesday, March 27.

The men, who were seen in a black Audi, partial registration OV60, damaged the garage door in the attempted break-in.

According to police, their target was believed to be a vehicle they thought was parked inside the garage.

After damaging the door, the offenders drove off at speed.

Nothing was taken from the garage. A spokesman for Staffordshire Police

said: "Unknown offenders in a black Audi vehicle (partial registration OV60) were seen to drive into a secure garage door causing damage to the same. It is thought that their target was a vehicle that they believed was parked inside. Nothing was taken.

"We are asking that the public stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police on 101 or 999 in an emergency."

PM praise on low council tax levels

THE Prime Minister has praised Dudley Council for keeping council tax rates low in comparison to the rest of the region. Theresa May hailed 'the success' of the Tory-led authority in response to a question from Dudley South MP Mike Wood during PMQs.

She also gave her approval to the council's investment in street cleaning and backed the maintaining of weekly bin collections across the borough. Mr Wood said: "The Prime Minister has a lot of issues to deal with and I am really pleased that she made the time to pay tribute to the tremendous work done by Dudley Council. It is fantastic news and down to the hard work of the leader, Patrick Harley, and his team who deliver for residents on important issues like keeping council tax low."

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This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.



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Six-figure payout over hospital's drug error

Jordanne's ace picture



Jordanne Whaley posted this picture with son Jackson on social media

TENNIS star Jordanne Whaley posted this adorable photo with her two-month old son online.

The Paralympian gave birth to Jackson Nigel McCarroll on January 30, weighing a healthy 7lb 13oz.

Jordanne, from Halesowen, who has won 10 tennis wheelchair titles, took a break from the sport whilst expecting her first child. The 25-year-old posted the latest black

and white snap on her social media accounts, accompanied by a heart emoji. Her partner and Jackson's father, Marc McCarroll, is also a wheelchair tennis player.

Jordanne was ranked the number one women's wheelchair doubles player in the world in 2015. She won a bronze medal at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games and was awarded an MBE in 2015.

DUDLEY NHS Trust has agreed a six-figure settlement after a medication error caused irreversible damage to a patient's inner ear – leaving her unable to balance without support when standing.

The 57-year-old said the impact on her health – caused by her needlessly being prescribed the antibiotic Gentamicin for seven weeks – had been devastating.

She says she now has 'little life at all', is confined to sleeping downstairs at home, has no social life and suffers from anxiety.

The woman had come through an operation to drain three abscesses on her brain at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital and was transferred to Russells Hall to recover, and was given antibiotics daily for six weeks. Doctors changed her medication when discharging her, meaning she only had to visit a local clinic once a day.

Problems

But, the decision to put her on an intravenous course of Gentamicin – used to treat severe infections and known to cause inner ear problems as a side effect – was not checked with specialists at the QE.

Independent medical experts, consulted as part of a legal case against The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the drug should not have been prescribed.

At the most, the experts said Gentamicin should have been taken for a maximum of seven days, yet the patient was on it for 52 days after being released from hospital in November 2013.

Diane Wake, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are deeply sorry that the antibiotic regime resulted in such severe side effects and we apologise for the long-term impact and distress this has caused."

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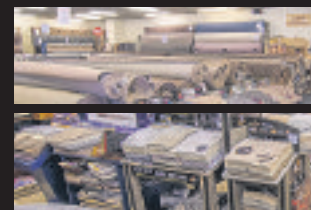
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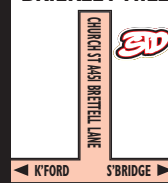
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16739 homeless in front of the region's courts

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 5, 2018

MORE than 700 homeless people have been dragged before courts in the West Midlands over the last four years for rough sleeping.

New figures show the region has the second highest rate in the country when it comes to enforcing a centuries old law which bans vagrancy.

Across the West Midlands 739 people were arrested and charged under the legislation – the second highest outside London – according to figures from a Freedom of Information request.

It comes as the Lib Dems called for the repeal of the Vagrancy Act, which dates back to the time of King George IV.

Since 2014 in England and Wales, 7,688 people have been taken to court for being homeless.

A total of 2,278 people were arrested by the Metropolitan Police, 520 by Greater Manchester Police, 448 in Northumbria and 689 by Merseyside Police.

Homelessness has become a critical issue across the region, with the number of people sleeping rough rising in recent years.

In Wolverhampton the number of people seeking help with accommodation rose from 1,326 in 2015/16 to 1,700 in 2016/17. On an average night in 2017 there were 23 people sleeping on the city's streets.

Nick Machnik-Foster, a Lib Dem campaigner in the Black Country, has called on local councils to do more to tackle the crisis.

He said: "We have a homelessness crisis on the streets of our region. This has to be one of the most unforgiving times to be homeless in the Black Country."

Business event key

DUDLEY Council has hailed the importance of the Black Country Business Festival. More than 120 events take place from April 23 to May 4 and its importance was underlined by Dudley Council's Wayne Dutton.

Mr Dutton, the council's inward investment and business support officer, said it would be a platform to help promote the DY5 enterprise zone.

First properties at old hospital on the market

THE first batch of homes have gone up for sale after a revamp of a historic Black Country hospital site.

Developer Wates Residential has put 29 contemporary apartments on the market at the Guest Hospital in Dudley.

The development 'Bourne Hall' forms part of the 157-home Butler's Crescent development, which has seen Wates transform the 147-year hospital.

Originally designed by architect William Bourne, Bourne Hall served as the hospital's administration building and has now been delicately refurbished to feature a collection of one, two and three bedroom apartments for young professionals or downsizers.

Butler's Crescent, a partnership between Wates, Dudley Council and Homes England, is made up of 127 new-build homes, 30 refurbished properties and the full restoration of the locally-listed former porter's lodge.

Of the homes, 118 are being sold on the open market with 39 available to rent through Dudley Council.

Milestone

The scheme has been named Butler's Crescent in tribute to the renowned Black Country architect, Albert Thomas Butler, who worked on the hospital.

Richard Shroll, managing director at Wates Residential North, said: "The launch of Bourne Hall is the latest milestone in the transformation of Dudley Guest Hospital into Butler's Crescent and will enable both young professionals to secure a place on the property ladder and downsizers to acquire a new, contemporary-designed home.

"We're pleased to be part of this historically-significant regeneration project."

Alan Lunt, strategic director for place at Dudley Council, said: "This is a very welcome development in a key area of Dudley. We are proud to be the historic capital of the Black



The site will become home to 29 apartments



A bedroom in the apartment



The old Guest Hospital has lain undeveloped



Bourne Hall interior shots

Country and an important area for tourism, business and homes."

The hospital closed more than a decade ago after most departments, including A&E, moved to Russells Hall Hospital. It had been built by the Earl of Dudley in 1849 for injured miners, before chainmaker Joseph Guest turned it

into a hospital. Dudley Council planners gave the scheme the green light in 2015, saying the plans 'would deliver a high quality, sustainable modern housing scheme including affordable housing and landscaping.

"A number of locally listed heritage assets on the site would be preserved and converted."

Housing plan as club site up for sale at £500k

A FORMER liberal club site in Dudley is on the market for £500,000.

Estate agent Select House is marketing the old Woodside Liberal Club grounds in Stourbridge Road, which have outline planning consent for 14 homes.

The club and linked buildings were demolished after falling out of use.

Ward councillors have given their backing to the development.

Councillor Christine Perks, of Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews ward, said: "I welcome all new homes, we have got quite a shortage in Dudley."

Planning permission to knock down the former club was granted in February 2015, while the outline permission was granted on March 12 this year.

The properties could vary from apartments to terraced and semi-detached houses. A council report, outlining the homes plan, said: "The development would comprise 10 houses and four apartments, which would be located to the front of the site adjacent to Stourbridge Road.

"The application proposes the erection of a small block of four apartments fronting Stourbridge Road. The parking serving the apartments would be formed in a small forecourt providing five spaces, including a disabled space immediately adjoining the proposed access.

Three terraced dwellings would be sited to the south of the proposed access road.

"Two pairs of semi-detached properties and a terrace of three properties would be located at the head of the cul-de-sac."

Surgeries to close

TWO GP surgeries are set to close in September after plans were approved.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said he was disappointed with the decision to close Tenlands Road Surgery and Coombswood Surgery in Halesowen.

Dudley CCG has given the go-ahead to the plan by Stourbridge Medical Practice, which runs the surgeries. Patients will be sent to the town's health centre instead.

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For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

Lots of exciting upcoming entertainment coming up throughout March. Check out their advert for up to date times and acts coming up.

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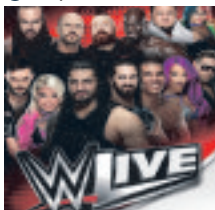
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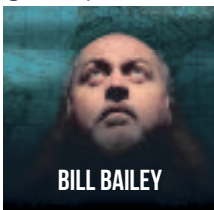
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Nerina's about to Stay Lucky

Don't get Nerina Pallot started. The self-confessed grump, voracious reader and voracious writer – and very occasionally voracious drinker – will tell it like it is. Albeit with some wit, a ready smile and not a little panache.

The Brit-nominated singer/songwriter has written for the likes of Kylie Minogue and a fistful of X Factor hopefuls: "I can't say Kylie wasn't good money – it was. But I only saw it as a means to an end: funding my own records. But after a while it became so soul-destroying. Not necessarily for me, but because of all these young artists – they're being filled with all this hope. And you know that unless the second single goes, it's over for them. I saw that time and time again. I don't want to be a part of that. It's grim."

She's no longer a fan of co-writing: "I'll never do it again for love or money. I'm actually really down on people who co-write."

And she's also got more chips on her shoulder than McCain about the way her first two albums were marketed. "Very pop, very mainstream, and it was all about being nice. A journalist said: 'Her hair is too glossy to take her seriously.' I hated it at the time but she was right! Although, to be honest, it is nice to see yourself looking pretty."

GREATEST

She has no time for pop superstars, like Taylor Swift. "Taylor Swift could make the greatest record of all time. But it's too late – she's TAYLOR."

And so meet Nerina Pallot, a smart artist who talks straight and writes beautifully. Her new album is Stay Lucky. It's her sixth, and she's releasing it at the age of 43. The Jersey-born, London-based musician played her first gig in 1995, which means she's been doing this for 22 years. Is she bothered about any of those numbers? What do you think?

"I've only now just got a handle on things. I don't know why we have this massive issue with age."

Nerina wrote Stay Lucky and played guitar and piano and synths and percussion on it. She produced it, and, after relationships with three different major labels, is releasing it on her own label, Idaho Records. "That's allowed me to be free," she notes, stating the happy obvious. "When I think about why I went pop on my third album [2009's The Graduate] – which was a disaster for me; I lost a lot of fans – it was because my label were breathing down my neck after the second one," Nerina says of 2005's Fires. It sold 100,000 copies and earned her Brit and Ivor Novello award nominations. "They were telling me it should have sold 10 million, if only it had had a radio single. So what that led to was me trying to do that – and then doing stuff with Kylie."

Nerina wrote two songs, one of them the title track, for Kylie's 2010 album Aphrodite. She admits that that experience, plus spells writing with Linda Perry (Christina Aguilera's Beautiful) and Rob Davis (Minogue's Can't Get You Out Of My Head), helped Pallot improve her chorus-writing skills. "But that didn't translate to a radio single for me. 'Cause my heart wasn't in it. 'Cause that's not who I am."

So, now that she's free, she can "indulge herself." This meant a year of EPs, released one a month in 2014 – and it means, further down the line from Stay Lucky, more new songs that are "way more out-there – there's one that's a bit Roy Ayers. Actually, that might make this album... But I will only do what I want to do. And as long as I can keep living, I won't stop."

Stay Lucky was recorded over two productive weekends in London's legendary RAK studios. The speed belies the lovely, unhurried expansiveness of an album that is, truly and deeply, her most personal, most warmly emotional album yet.

Even as she led from the front, it's also her most collaborative record. Nerina was aided, abetted and enriched by a thrillingly diverse selection of



musicians. The players include three members of Michael Kiwanuka's touring band, Steve Pringle (keyboards), Alex Bonfanti (bass) and Lewis Wright (drums, vibes), with the latter taking time out from his other day-job, as a member of acclaimed young British jazz quartet Empirical. The backing vocalists are Markus Feehily (ex-Westlife) and Rod Thomas (aka Bright Light Bright Light). The bulk of the string arrangements are by Sally Herbert (Florence & The Machine, Bat For Lashes), who's worked on all of Pallot's albums. The brass arranger is Noel Langley, probably the most respected British jazz trumpeter, as Radiohead would attest. Finally, Bernard Butler (who co-produced her fourth album Year of the Wolf)

I can't say Kylie wasn't good money – it was

plays guitar on three tracks. As Nerina notes typically pithily: "I've basically made a totally muso record, which is a great or terrible thing depending on how you feel about six-minute songs and sax solos."

"I feel like I've got the best career 'cause I've never had enough success for it to be demanded that I do the same thing over and over again. I would go completely mental having to do the same successful record again. I'd never be able to move on. I like so much music, and I love new music. Last year it was the BadBadNotGood record – I was just relieved that fusion is allowed now – I was a massive fusion fan as a teenager. And also Thundercat – I'm like, great, we can have sax solos again! Which is why a sax solo is the last thing I have to add to Stay Lucky before it's totally done..."

Nerina headlines Birmingham's Glee Club on Monday.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.
Andy Richardson

Everything Everything



They've got Everything Everything going for them

With a top 10 album, plus performances at both Glastonbury and Reading and Leeds last summer, it's safe to say Everything Everything had a monumental 2017.

This year already looks set to be better with a huge UK tour that sees them playing their biggest headline shows to date. Some dates were hit by the early March snow, hence the band's rescheduled concert next Thursday, April 12, at Birmingham's O2 Academy.

The Mercury Music Prize-nominated indie rockers have released four albums to date – 2010's *Man Alive*, 2013's *Arc*, 2015's *Get To Heaven* and 2017's *A Fever Dream*. In addition to a Mercury Music Prize shortlist, they have received three nominations for the Ivor Novello Award.

A Fever Dream was their biggest success to date and just as politically-charged as its predecessor, *Get To Heaven*. Singer Jonathan Higgs, from Tyneside, says: "It feels like the right thing to do: the right record to have made and the right way to react to the last couple of years. We didn't want to repeat ourselves, we didn't want to drastically go against what we'd done."

Other key gigs include indie rockers The Vaccines with the up-and-coming *Dream Wife* at the O2 Academy on Saturday, the same night that 1D's Harry Styles plays the Genting Arena at the NEC.

Britain's Got Talent winner Tokio Myers, who has just reworked Jerusalem for England's Commonwealth Games squad, is at the O2 Institute on Sunday, when rapper Macklemore plays the O2 Academy.

A psychological Turn Of The Screw



A NEW adaptation of the terrifying Henry James ghost story *Turn Of The Screw* brings chills to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, April 14.

Set in 1840, it tells of a governess who agrees to look after two orphans, a boy and a girl, at seemingly idyllic country house, Bly. But she soon realises that they are being manipulated by ghosts of Bly's troubled past and is prepared to go to extremes to save the children from malign influence. Is

this the supernatural at work or the delusions of a damaged mind?

Carl Norris, pictured, from TV's *EastEnders* and *Hollyoaks*, plays the tormented Governess.

Dermot McLaughlin, who produces this touring play with Mercury Theatre Colchester and Wolverhampton Grand, says: "I was inspired by the success of the stage adaptation of Susan Hill's much-loved novel *The Woman in Black* and, in researching the debt that Hill's novel owes to Henry James, I got lost in the intriguing world of Bly and the Governess's psyche."

"I found *Turn of the Screw* a compelling story with fascinating

female characters.

The context of this troubled woman committing to paper her terrifying and inexplicable experiences so long after the event was intriguing and moving. That psychology seemed very interesting dramatic territory."

Tim Luscombe's adaptation signals the passage of time in a surprising way whilst true to the story. *Turn of the Screw* has been much debated since its publication in 1898. It was made into 1961 film *The Innocents* with Deborah Kerr and inspired Nicole Kidman haunted house movie *The Others*.

Love on the rock for young gangster

It's been described as *Romeo and Juliet* meets *Peaky Blinders*, a new adaptation of Graham Greene's novel *Brighton Rock* has been adapted for the stage by Bryony Lavery. *Brighton Rock* tells the story of two 17-year-olds, gangster Pinkie and his girl Rose, played by Jacob James Beswick and Sarah Middleton, pictured. The formidable Ida (Gloria Onitiri) is not prepared to let anyone get away with murder. It is staged at Birmingham Rep from Tuesday to Saturday, April 14.



Thee Hypnotics are roaring back to action

Hell-raising 1990s rockers Thee Hypnotics are back with a heavyweight coloured vinyl anthology boxed set, *Righteously Recharged*, and a Brum gig tomorrow night (Friday) as part of a 15-date UK tour. Jim Jones (vocals) and Ray Hanson (guitar) will be joined by Jeremy Cottingham (bass) and Phil Smith (drums) at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath. Known for their savage blend of garage rock and psychedelia, Thee Hypnotics garnered a cult following from 1987 onwards after supporting The Damned, The Cramps, The Black Crowes and The Cult. But the story nearly ended in tragedy in 1990 when the group's tour bus was hit by a drunk driver after a gig at Prince's club in Minneapolis. The band, who came from High Wycombe, split in 1999 and singer Jones went on to front the Jim Jones Revue.

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CHOICE



Bella Dayne

Troy: Fall of a City (BBC1, 9.10pm)
The Trojans are stunned to discover a deserted Greek camp, and all that remains on the beach is an offering to the gods in the form of a large, wooden horse. With the war finally over, the celebrations can begin, but are they premature? The final episode of David Farr's Ancient Greek adventure, retelling the legend of the Trojan War from the perspective of a family at the heart of the conflict. Starring Bella Dayne, Louis Hunter, David Threlfall, Frances O'Connor, Chloe Pirrie, Joseph Mawle, Jonas Armstrong, Waldemar Schultz, Aimee-Ffion Edwards, Johnny Harris, David Avery, Alfred Enoch, Christiaan Schoombie, Chris Fisher and Amy Louise Wilson. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Commonwealth Games 2018. Live swimming, track cycling and netball coverage from Queensland. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Golf: The Masters Highlights. **2.15** Commonwealth Games 2018. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of day three. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.45** Doodlebugs.

6.00 Ready or Not. Game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public who face surprise challenges while going about their daily lives. Paddy McGuinness provides the commentary.

6.30 BBC News.

6.40 Regional Programme.

6.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a writers' special of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Charlie Higson, Sally Gardner, Fern Britton, Jilly Cooper and Martina Cole.

7.40 Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.20 Casualty. Ethan treats a pregnant woman who was rushed to the ED after her waters broke at a bus stop. Sam admits to lain that she is worried about Dylan's alcoholism, and wants to help him.

9.10 Troy: Fall of a City. The Trojans are stunned to discover a deserted Greek camp, and all that remains on the beach is an offering to the gods in the form of a large, wooden horse. Last in the series.

10.10 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium and Everton v Liverpool at Goodison Park.

11.55 Commonwealth Games 2018. JJ Chalmers introduces live coverage on day four of the Games in Queensland, with swimming, boxing and hockey some of the standout sports on today's schedule.

4.00 Commonwealth Games 2018. Further live coverage of day four in Queensland.

BBC2

6.00 Commonwealth Games 2018. Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the third day in Queensland, with artistic gymnastics, netball and track cycling among the sports taking place. **10.00** Robot Wars. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Commonwealth Games 2018. Clare Balding presents live coverage as day three of the Games reaches its conclusion with swimming medals up for grabs in the women's 200m breaststroke and 4x200m freestyle relay. **2.15** MasterChef. (R) **2.45** MasterChef. (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **5.00** Big Cats About the House. (R)

6.00 Today at the Games. Clare Balding and Gabby Logan round up the third day of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland. Swimmer Adam Peaty was expected to go for a third Commonwealth gold medal in the men's 100m breaststroke final at Optus Aquatic Centre, while Yorkshire brothers Alistair and Jonny Brownlee were scheduled to take part in the mixed team triathlon relay at Southport Broadwater Parklands. Artistic gymnast Max Whitlock was the man to beat in the men's individual all-around final at Coomera Indoor Sports Centre, while England and Scotland were hoping for track cycling glory at the Anna Meares Velodrome in Brisbane.

7.30 Golf: The Masters Live. Eilidh Barbour introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. Yorkshirer Danny Willett was the defending champion here last year, but two poor opening rounds of 73 and 78 saw him miss the cut by one stroke, becoming the first holder of the Green Jacket to exit the tournament on Friday since Mike Weir in 2004. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger.

12.00 Film: Having You. (2013) A man with a fear of commitment finally manages to overcome his doubts and propose to his girlfriend. He finds himself facing new responsibilities when he runs into a woman he once had a one-night stand with, only to discover he is the father of her seven-year-old son. Drama, starring Anna Friel, Andrew Buchan and Romola Garai. **1.30** Civilisations. (R) **2.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.35** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.20** The Harbour. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News: Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed!

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Declan Donnelly presents the finale of the entertainment show live from Universal Orlando Resort in Florida, featuring super-sized audience surprises, incredible stunts and celebrity guests. Plus, Stephen Mulhern takes his pop-up game show In for a Penny stateside, and Scarlett Moffatt is on hand to ensure the Place on the Plane winners have an experience they'll never forget. The identity of the Overlord is finally revealed in the conclusion of Saturday Knight Takeaway, and another player gets the chance to Win the Ads. Last in the series.

8.30 The Voice UK - Live Final. The grand final of the spinning-chair singing contest, as the remaining four singers battle it out to land a lucrative recording contract with Polydor Records. Plus, coaches Jennifer Hudson, Tom Jones, Will.I.am and Olly Murs take to the stage for a special performance together, and are also on hand to give the contestants as much help and encouragement as possible. However, ultimately it's the viewing public who call the shots and decide who will be crowned the winner of this year's competition. Last in the series.

10.10 ITV News: Weather.

10.30 Film: Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows. (2011) Premiere. Detective thriller sequel, starring Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.45** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** Frasier. (R) **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir. **2.30** F1 Meets David Coulthard. (R) **2.55** Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir (Start-time 4.00pm). **5.45** Car SOS. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Coastal Railways with Julie Walters. The actress travels on the famous Great Western Railway to Cornwall. She recalls childhood holidays when she stops at Torquay before heading to a supposedly haunted castle at Kingswear. She also uncovers tales of smuggling and joins members of the RNLi on a practice run before visiting an unusual cake shop in Penzance. (R)

8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns. New series. Alice Roberts explores the UK's past through the stories of its towns, examining key periods in history by delving into the secrets of places that encapsulate them. In the first episode, Alice tells the story of Roman Britain by studying the history of Chester. She enjoys an authentic Roman feast, heads deep underground to check out an extraordinary archaeological find, and explores a radical theory regarding the Romans' plans for Chester.

9.00 Film: Legend. (2015) Biopic of the Kray brothers, exploring their rise to power in the London underworld and conflicts with rival gangs from the point of view of Reggie's wife Frances, who remains devoted to her husband even as he remains equally bound to his brutal, unstable sibling. Starring Tom Hardy as both twins, with Emily Browning, Christopher Eccleston and David Thewlis.

11.35 Film: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. (2012) Fantasy thriller, starring Benjamin Walker.

1.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Traffic Cops. (R) **12.30** Traffic Cops. (R) **1.30** Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union. Bath v Leicester Tigers (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Two agents get caught up in a dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to move out, while on the south coast, debt collection from a Turkish restaurant gets complicated. (R)

7.00 The Secret Life of Owls. Part one of two. In a corner of rural Essex, a former First World War airfield has been left wild for over 100 years. It is now perfect owl country, home to all five of Britain's species of owl. Among them, lives a remarkable barn owl called Missing owl, and two inseparable little owls, Geronimo and Flo. Cameras follow their progress during winter, spring and summer.

8.00 Everest: World's Greatest Mountain. Cameras explore the wonder of the world's most iconic mountains, beginning with the highest in the world - Mount Everest. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Cardiff City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Cardiff City Stadium, Norwich City v Aston Villa at Carrow Road, Hull City v Queens Park Rangers at the KCOM Stadium, Leeds United v Sunderland at Elland Road and Sheffield Wednesday v Fulham at Hillsborough.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Scunthorpe United and Grimsby Town v Chesterfield.

10.30 20 Moments That Rocked the 90s. Cold Feet star Helen Baxendale presents a countdown of memorable moments from the 1990s, including the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the chart battle between Blur and Oasis. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: The Other Guys. (2010)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Insect Worlds **7.30** Commonwealth Games Extra **9.00** Below the Surface **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **11.00** Boy George and Culture Club: Karma to Calamity **12.00** Young Guns Go for It **12.30** The Man Who Brought the Blues to Britain: Big Bill Broonzy **1.30** John Williams at the BBC **2.30** Trad Jazz Britannia **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.50 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.20** Britain's Got Talent: Top 10 LOL Moments **2.25** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.30** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.35** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **6.35** FYI Daily **6.40** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.25** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **8.25** FYI Daily **8.30** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **10.10** Celebrity Juice **11.00** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.45** Action Team **1.20** Film: Piranha (2010) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25** Film: Piranha (2010) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.00 A Touch of Frost **3.20** Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Vera **1.00** Murder, She Wrote **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.30 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **1.20** Football's Greatest: Thierry Henry **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Kelsø. Ed Chamberlin presents coverage of today's races at Kelsø and Kempton Park. **4.00** Film: Red River (1948) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Red River (1948) **6.40** Film: Live and Let Die (1973) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: Live and Let Die (1973) **9.05** Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) **11.25** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **2.35** Football Rivalries **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Young Sheldon **12.30** The Big Bang Theory **1.55** Film: Eragon (2006) **4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **6.10** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) **10.10** Film: Contraband (2012) **12.15** Gogglebox **1.15** Naked Attraction **2.25** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Gogglebox

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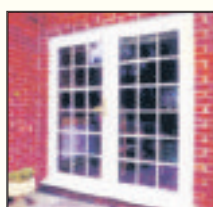
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CHOICE



Catherine Tate

The Olivier Awards 2018 (ITV, 10.20pm)

Catherine Tate hosts the theatrical awards, which features performances from nominated musicals including Hamilton, 42nd Street, Follies, Young Frankenstein, Girl from the North Country and Everybody's Talking about Jamie, as well as a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Actors in the running for awards include Imelda Staunton, Andrew Garfield, Bryan Cranston, Lesley Joseph and Lesley Manville.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Commonwealth Games 2018. Live swimming and track cycling action on day four. **1.30** BBC News: Weather. **1.45** Commonwealth Games 2018. Day four in Queensland concludes with live swimming. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles travel to the Cotswolds, where nine painters work with their professional mentors to conquer techniques to depict nature in all its glory. The first task involves dealing with two subjects that won't stay still – dogs Herbert and Nutmeg – and the final challenge sees them attempting to capture the majesty of the Acer glabres.

7.00 **Countryfile.** Sean Fletcher and Naomi Wilkinson present the show from Loch Ness, where they meet a seventh generation crofter and his daughter during lambing season, find out how a sparrow maker is reinventing the traditional Scottish accessory, and tap birch trees for sap. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **The Generation Game.** Family pairs from different generations battle it out in games including cake decorating, balloon modelling, and dancing the Argentine Tango with Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.

9.00 **Ordeal by Innocence.** Arthur presents irrefutable proof that Jack is innocent, which stirs up tension among the members of the Argyll family, who realise that one of them may be the murderer.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, with highlights of Arsenal v Southampton at the Emirates Stadium and Chelsea v West Ham United at Stamford Bridge.

11.30 **Commonwealth Games 2018.** JJ Chalmers introduces live coverage as day five gets under way in Queensland.

4.00 Commonwealth Games 2018. Further live coverage of day five in Queensland.

BBC2

6.00 Commonwealth Games 2018. Hazel Irvine presents live coverage as day four of the Games continues in Queensland, with artistic gymnastics, athletics and hockey all taking place. **9.00** Commonwealth Games 2018. Clare Balding presents further live coverage from day four of the Games in Queensland, featuring swimming at the Optus Aquatic Centre and track cycling at the Anna Meares Velodrome. Coverage continues on BBC One. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.30** MasterChef. (R) **1.30** MasterChef. (R) **2.00** The Secret Helpers. (R) **3.00** Film: Emma. (1996) A privileged, headstrong young woman is busy playing matchmaker for her friends – unaware she has found her own soulmate. Jane Austen drama, with Gwyneth Paltrow and Ewan McGregor. **5.00** Today at the Games. Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present the best of day four's action at the Commonwealth Games in Queensland, with Max Whitlock vying for two of the 20 gold medals on offer.

6.30 **Golf: The Masters Live.** Eilidh Barbour introduces coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year concludes. Spanish veteran Sergio Garcia finally claimed his first-ever Major here last year, overcoming England's Justin Rose in a play-off after carding a final round of 69. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger.

12.00 **Film: The Rookie.** (2002) A talented baseball player's dreams of turning professional end with an injury. Years later, he takes up the sport again when he agrees to coach a high-school team. However, a light-hearted wager with the players obliges him to try to make a comeback to the big time – with astonishing results. Fact-based drama, with Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths, Jay Hernandez, Beth Grant and Angus T. Jones. **2.00** Sign Zone: Countryfile. In West Yorkshire, Matt Baker meets a beekeeper who came to the county as a refugee from Syria. Anita Rani goes in search of mountain hares, and Joe Crowley discovers Emily Brontë's passion for wildlife. Plus, Tom Heap investigates the decline in Britain's hedgehogs. (R) **2.55** Holby City. Roxanna questions Gaskell's motives when he takes on a controversial new case. Meanwhile, Fitch clashes with new CEO Abigail over a vulnerable patient. (R) **3.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.00** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** The Voice UK – Live Final. (R) **11.40** Change Your Tune. (R) **7.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.30** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.30** ITV News: Weather. **5.00** Tipping Point. (R)

6.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Actress Sally Phillips, musician Rick Wakeman, professional snowboarder Jenny Jones and impressionist Alistair McGowan pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser, as Bradley Walsh hosts another star-studded edition of the show. The celebrities must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

7.00 **Change Your Tune.** More bad singers undergo training, including a woman who wants to sing at her father's birthday and a swimming coach who wants to duet with her boyfriend. Baz Ashmawy presents.

8.00 **The Durrells.** Larry goes to Athens on a short trip, and returns with a royal guest. Louisa is delighted to have a prince under her roof, but soon finds herself with a less welcome visitor.

9.00 **The Good Karma Hospital.** Ruby is still reeling from her discoveries at the tea plantation, and must decide if she can forgive past mistakes. Meanwhile, Mari goes head to head with Lydia.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 **The Olivier Awards 2018.** Catherine Tate hosts the theatrical awards.

12.15 100 Years: Old Driving School. (R) **12.40** Marcella. (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Race of Champions 2018. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.45** The Simpsons. (R) **1.15** The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R) **3.00** Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live Build Up. Steve Jones presents a look ahead to the action. **3.45** Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the second round of the season (Start-time 4.10pm).

6.20 **Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix Live Reaction.** Steve Jones and a panel of experts discuss the second round of the season from the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhr.

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.00 **Escape to the Chateau.** Series following a British family through the process of buying and restoring a French chateau that has been empty for the past four decades. Dick Strawbridge and his partner Angel Adoree's new home has 12 acres of land, nine outbuildings, a walled garden and a moat – but it also has no electricity, heating or water, and proves to be a far more complicated DIY project than expected. (R)

8.00 **Jesus' Female Disciples: The New Evidence.** Theologians Helen Bond and Joan Taylor embark on a journey around the world in search of evidence of the role played by women in the beginnings of Christianity.

9.00 **Homeland.** Carrie and Saul interrogate a suspect, while Wellington makes a play. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Linus Roache.

10.05 **Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and Chris Addison take on Joe Wilkinson and Katherine Ryan, while David O'Doherty helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.00 **Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.** (2011) A former intelligence operative is brought out of retirement to uncover a Soviet mole in a high-ranking position in MI6. Cold War thriller, starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth.

1.25 **Film: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan.** (2017) **3.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.25** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.35** Simon. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.15** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.50** Traffic Cops. (R) **12.50** Film: Oliver! (1968) Musical, starring Ron Moody. **3.40** Film: The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. **4.40** 5 News Update. **4.45** Film: The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Concluded. **5.50** Film: Marley & Me. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.

6.50 5 News Update.

6.55 Film: Marley & Me. (2008) Concluded.

8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In Coventry, the sheriffs chase £10,000 owed by a publican to a contractor. The property appears to be empty, but after finding an ingenious method of entry, Matt and Garry are confronted by a surprised and angry landlord. Meanwhile, agents Max and Steve head to central London to try to recover almost £8,000 owed to a firm of accountants. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 **When Live News Goes Horribly Wrong.** Moira Stuart narrates a selection of memorable mishaps from live news broadcasts, including the President of Estonia walking out of an interview with Dermot Murtagh, an expert on Korea being upstaged by his own children, and Krishnan Guru-Murthy's awkward interview with comedian Richard Ayoade.

11.55 **Football On 5: The Checktrade Trophy.** Lincoln City v Shrewsbury Town. Action from the showpiece match between the respective League Two and League One sides, which took place at Wembley Stadium.

12.55 Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Resident Evil: Afterlife. (2010)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Commonwealth Games Extra **9.00** Folk Awards 2018 **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Horizon **11.30** Conversations: Michael Heseltine **12.30** How to Be Bohemian with Victoria Coren Mitchell **1.30** Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **2.30** Horizon **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.40 The Voice UK – Live Final **1.30** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **3.40** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.40** FYI Daily **9.45** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **8.00** Film: Spectre (2015) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Spectre (2015) **10.55** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.20 Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **1.55** A Touch of Frost **4.00** Vera **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Larry Grayson: Shut That Door! **10.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **11.10** Film: Carry On Dick (1974) **1.00** Inspector Morse **2.55** Blue Murder **4.10** Road to Avonlea **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

6.20 Nijinsky's Triple Crown **6.25** Pawn Stars **6.55** The Big Fish Off **7.55** Mr Bean **9.00** An Audience with Billy Connolly **10.05** Film: Conan the Destroyer (1984) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: Conan the Destroyer (1984) **12.15** Film: 6 Bullets (2012) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: 6 Bullets (2012) **2.30** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Film: Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **1.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.55** Young Sheldon **6.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.50** Film: Night at the Museum (2006) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Tattoo Fixers **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.05** Rude Tube **Film4** **11.00** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **1.00** Paddington (2014) **2.50** How to Train Your Dragon (2010) **4.40** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.45** Ender's Game (2013) **9.00** The Last Witch Hunter (2015) **11.05** Bad Teacher (2011) **12.50** sex, lies and videotape (1989) **3.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Newlywed and Dead, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A young newlywed woman begins to doubt her husband's love when his aunt and rival is found murdered. She investigates the death and his chequered past, only to become his next target. Drama, starring Shenae Grimes-Beech, Christopher Russell and Samantha Ferris. (2016)

TUESDAY

Nightmare 911, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A police 911 operator is fired after mistaking a real murder for a prank call, and feeling guilty for allowing the crime to happen, she sets out to find the killer herself before he or she strikes again. Thriller, starring Fiona Gubelmann and John Lee Ames. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

McBride: Murder Past Midnight, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The crusading lawyer is called up for jury duty in the case of a woman thought to have poisoned her wealthy husband. However, he ends up reluctantly agreeing to defend the accused when she is retried. Mystery, starring John Larroquette, Marta DuBois and Matt Lutz. (2005)



Invictus, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

The Killing Game, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A forensic sculptor whose daughter disappeared years previously receives a series of menacing phone calls from a man claiming to have killed her and announces his intention to strike again. She sets out to expose his identity before another girl dies, and maybe find out where her child is buried. Mystery based on Iris Johansen's novel, starring Laura Prepon. (2011)

FRIDAY

Invictus, ITV, 10.45pm

Following his election as president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela finds himself the leader of a racially and economically divided nation, and seeks a means to unite the people. The country's entry in the 1995 Rugby World Cup provides a perfect opportunity, and he enlists the aid of captain Francois Pienaar in making his team an inspiration to all South Africans. Clint Eastwood's fact-based drama, starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon. (2009)

Shadowfax has to prove herself a worthy member

Imagine you can enter a virtual world, where you can forget your troubles and be somebody completely different. Some gamers may claim that they already do so, but not to the same level depicted in Kiss Me First, Channel 4's innovative drama, which began its run last week.

Based on Lottie Moggach's debut novel, it mixes live action with animated sequences set in Red Pill, a secret paradise hidden on the edges of central character Leila's favourite computer game. It's there that she meets Tess, her complete opposite who is hedonistic, impulsive and insatiable.

Leila's troubles escalate when Tess turns up in the real world, just as a fellow member of the gaming group mysteriously disappears – making her suspect that Red Pill isn't the new Eden its creator Adrian claims it to be.

Executively produced and written by Bryan Elsley, one of the co-creators of Skins, the six-part drama stars rising talent Tallulah Haddon as Leila.

"She's a young working class woman who is dealing with the difficulties of being a carer for her mother who has a terminal illness," says Haddon of her character. "She becomes more and more immersed in a game that she's played since her early teens, called Azana. Hopefully it gives some insight into the life of a young woman who is isolated but has a lot to offer to the world if she's given the opportunity.

"Leila lacks role models; she is isolated and has been neglected by the systems. Unfortunately she is in position where it is very difficult for her to get help or support. She's very capable, but at the same time quite naive. I think if we bring it back to gaming, which is an art form, it makes total sense for her to want to be part of the Azana world, which holds so much more potential than her own."

Haddon herself took part in motion-capture filming to help the animators working on the project depict Leila's online world – it's an experience she won't forget in a hurry.

"It doesn't feel particularly magical when you're actually recording it, but it's really surprising what they managed to do," she smiles. "I thought of it as being more like a play, or a piece of movement, because it's a lot more active, whereas film acting is quite still.

"I think I was most shocked by the eye movement and the blinking. The eyes look so real, this reality conveys emotion at the same time as being quite isolating as you're reminded it's an animation. It emphasises the duplicity of the experience, feeling immersed in the Azana world."

In this week's episode, Leila's alter ego, Shadowfax, must prove to Adrian that she's a worthy addition to the world of Red Pill.

Despite being concerned about the sudden disappearance of Calumny, she's desperate to be allowed in so that she can learn more about her new friend Tess – but perhaps she should be more worried about Calumny's whereabouts than she appears to be...



Kiss Me First, Monday, Channel 4, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Springtime on the Farm Channel 5, 8pm

Farmers come in all shapes and sizes, from every age group and all types of backgrounds. But what connects these unsung heroes is the incredible lengths they go to in providing the food that goes on our tables all year round. Over the course of five nightly shows this week, Yorkshire Vet stars Peter Wright and Julian Norton, along with farmer and Countryfile presenter Adam Henson and Springwatch Unsprung's Lindsey Chapman, celebrate the nation's agricultural workers. The series begins with a look behind the scenes at Cannon Hall Farm near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, revealing how it stays afloat as a business, and the measures the farmers take to bring over a thousand lambs into the world. Plus, Gloria Hunniford recalls childhood days on her granny's farm in Northern Ireland, and former Emmerdale actor Kelvin Fletcher mucks out on a dairy farm.

TUESDAY

Cunk on Britain BBC2, 10pm

How much you like this series probably depends on how comfortable you are with watching experts trying to retain their composure while Philomena

Cunk asks them the sort of questions a five-year-old child might offer. But obviously the format worked in Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe, so little wonder Diane Morgan's gloriously stupid alter ego has been given more screen time to play with. In the second episode, her odyssey takes her from King Henry the Eighth to Horatio Nelson. Kate Williams is the latest guest star.

WEDNESDAY

Benidorm ITV, 9pm

Kat is back in EastEnders, which has left many soap fans wondering why her on-off husband Alfie isn't with her. Well, one reason could be that Shane Richie is busy living it up the sun with another guest stint in Benidorm as entertainer Sammy Valentine. Sammy is riding high after his comeback performance and is ready to make his debut at Neptune's, but Monty remains unconvinced – until they have a meeting with a super fan. However, Joyce is still under the impression that they are going to be graced with the presence of a TV superstar. Meanwhile, Noreen

senses the arrival of her twin sister Doreen, and Rob dashes to the airport in a bid to win back Cyd, leaving Billy and Eddie worried for his safety.

THURSDAY

Living with the Brainy Bunch BBC2, 8pm

Does parental influence affects students' academic ability? Experts certainly believe so, and in this radical experiment, struggling Year 11 pupils Hollie and Jack from Chessington Community College in south-west London move into the homes of two high-achieving counterparts. Hollie's new housemate is Holly H, who has a clutch of A's in her sights and wants to become a lawyer. Meanwhile, Jack is teamed with Tharush who has only just moved to the UK from Italy but is already excelling at school. Initially, Hollie and Jack struggle with the



Cunk on Britain, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

early bedtimes, tough homework schedules and curfews. But will this revolutionary change in family life bring about a upturn in their grades and ultimately lead them down a different path in life?

FRIDAY

MasterChef: The Final BBC1, 8.30pm

After an arduous seven-week journey, the search for the country's best amateur cook reaches its climax, with the remaining three participants having to push themselves to the limit for one last time before judges John Torode and Gregg Wallace crown the winner. This is their final chance to pull out all the stops, show everything they've learned through the process, and in three hours demonstrate the kind of cook they have become. They must push their culinary boundaries and produce the best three dishes of their lives in their quest to become the 14th MasterChef champion. Last in the series.

The City & the City BBC2, 9pm

Borlu believes extreme right nationalist group leader Major Syedr knows more about Mahalia's death than he's prepared to reveal. Thriller, starring David Morrissey.

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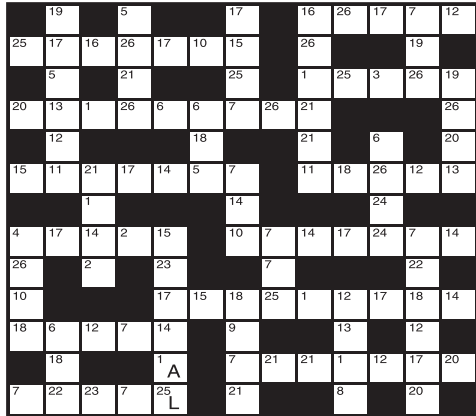


BRAIN GYM

No.474

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	U	I	N	K	X	Q	S	F	B	J	V	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	T	C	W	E	O	A	L	Z	M	G	R	Y

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

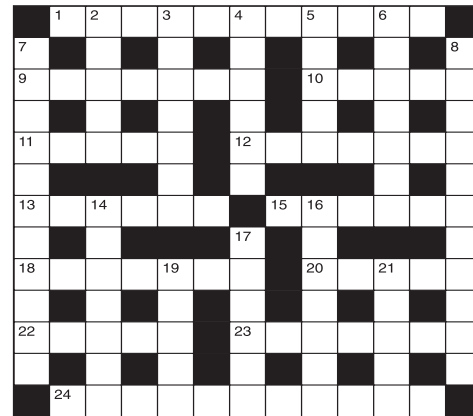
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. One suffering from this finds it difficult to go on (5-6)
9. Contemporary gift (7)
10. Conductor is caricatured, we hear (5)
11. They sound like justifiable claims for observances (5)
12. Not in the mail for remote station (7)
13. Fray a piece of ribbon, by the sound of it (6)
15. Girls upset by eastern fish (6)
18. Passable method golfers should keep to (7)
20. Rude mechanical instrument (5)
22. They spray water on the rambles (5)
23. Show too much enthusiasm in taking part (7)
24. They're indispensable when Scene 1 is set differently (11)

Down

2. To give patient attention is an unusual pleasure (5)
3. Had a shot at the visitor, one hears! (7)
4. Get to the bottom of a nautical measure (6)
5. Piece of metal to go in tin alloy (5)
6. Lock lubricator (4-3)
7. Austere menu provided at Thermopylae? (7,4)
8. By which bills are paid for the colonies (11)
14. Produce a publication again about children (7)
16. Take some thought to provide a mirror image (7)
17. They support current means of power (6)
19. As wet as scrap material (5)
21. A custom among industrious agents (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Conceited (11)
9. Inconsistent (7)
10. Devil (5)
11. Subject (5)
12. Thin (7)
13. Fools (6)
15. Put (6)
18. Crossbeam (7)
20. Horrify (5)
22. Singer (5)
23. Closest (7)
24. Diversify (11)

Down

2. Edge (5)
3. Withdraw (7)
4. Overlook (6)
5. Poke (5)
6. Wandering (7)
7. Confining (11)
8. Disbelief (11)
14. Persian (7)
16. Unauthorised disclosure (7)
17. Reparation (6)
19. Riddle (5)
21. Squeeze (5)

Sudoku

				2		1		
	2		1			5		6
8	1		7		6			
7			8					
	4	8		1		6	2	
		1		7	3			9
			5		9		3	
4	7	5			1		8	
			2	8				5

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	3	4	8	6	9	2	1
8	4	9	3	1	2	6	5	7
6	2	1	9	5	7	4	8	3
4	6	2	1	3	9	5	7	8
9	1	5	6	7	8	3	4	2
3	8	7	2	4	5	1	6	9
7	9	4	8	6	3	2	1	5
2	5	6	7	9	1	8	3	4
1	3	8	5	2	4	7	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Evidence; 5 Acid; 9 Alias; 10 Spurious; 11 Curie; 12 Tripper; 13 General stores; 18 Absolved; 19 Scab; 20 Dormant; 21 Crate; 22 Dame; 23 Presence. Down: 2 Vulture; 3 Dislike; 4 Capital letter; 6 Cropper; 7 Deserts; 8 Artist; 13 Guarded; 14 Nostrum; 15 Reload; 16 Observer; 17 Elastic. QUICK - Across: 1 Twilight; 5 Vend; 9 Area; 10 Handicap; 11 Silly; 12 Operate; 13 Death sentence; 18 Monarchy; 19 Pail; 20 Relieve; 21 Debar; 22 Turf; 23 Assisted. Down: 2 Warlike; 3 Leaflet; 4 Head over heels; 6 Enchain; 7 Deplete; 8 Advent; 13 Demerit; 14 Annular; 15 Harken; 16 Express; 17 Climate.

Quiz

1. What type of tree is the tamarack?
2. Whose autobiography is called The Tale of My Life?
3. On which day does Martinmas fall?
4. At what age, according to the Old Testament, did Moses die?
5. Which ocean contains the Norwegian Sea?
6. Which millionairess tennis player was charged with drug possession in 1994?
7. What is the capital of Tonga?
8. Of what nationality is the novelist Nadine Gordimer?
9. Which religious victims are named from the Greek for 'witness'?
10. In which country was dramatist Eugene Ionesco born?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Rubens; 2 Gary Player; 3 Long Island; 4 Stephen Hawking; 5 Istanbul; 6 The lungs; 7 Bel Mooney; 8 New Zealand; 9 Bryan

Robson; 10 A monkey.

Niner: PARSIMONY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7218542
5612
3416923

gives a mythological creature,
gives a mythological character,
gives a mythological weapon.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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BIRMINGHAM-BORN chef Glynn Purnell probably spoke for lots of independent restaurateurs recently when he bemoaned the takeover of the Second City.

While every town seems to have a Zizzi, Prezzo, Ask and Pizza Express, not all have a Gusto, Alchemist or Gaucho. In Birmingham, all three are within walking distance and look as though they're an intrinsic part of the city's Colmore Row dining zone.

Glynn was fed up that discerning customers might be led there rather than, for instance, his own bistro, which is just around the corner. He makes a valid point. With few exceptions, these days you have to head into Birmingham's suburbs for independent dining. While Gusto offers a classic and contemporary Italian-influenced menu and Gaucho focuses on great steaks and food from Argentina, The Alchemist is all about cool cocktails, all-day dining and global comfort food.

There are plenty of nibbles and sharing plates, from £2.50 to £6, including pork bon bons, crispy kale.

The Japanese-style katsu curry was a hit



We started with an order-and-share selection of nibbles, including mac'n'cheese bites with chipotle mayo, pork bon bons with chipotle mayo and edamame beans with soy and sea salt. The edamame were a little too greasy, in truth, having been fried before arriving. The mac'n'cheese bites were brilliant. The bon bons equally good. Savoury, flavour-packed pork was rolled

I opted for the katsu chicken, but ended up wishing I'd decided on the jerk chicken with dumplings, rice and peas. The katsu was reasonable. The panko breadcrumb was delicious and the garnish of crispy kale and perfectly-cooked and nicely-fragrant rice was

Wine and dine – The Alchemist in Colmore Row



The bill was £60, which felt about right, or was perhaps a little on the high side. The environment and staff were high class but the food wasn't at the standard of some of its neighbours.

ANDY RICHARDSON

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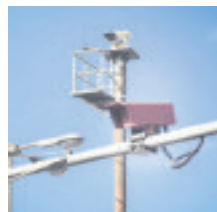
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Cupra now manufacturer in own right

By James Parker

The new Cupra Ateca has been revealed as the first car to come from Seat's performance division since it became its own separate manufacturer. The Cupra badge has traditionally been used for Seat's go-faster models, but it was revealed last year that it would split off as a separate brand. Its remit is to build performance versions of Seat's cars, though without any Seat badging, and to run Seat's motorsport division.

Impressive

Its first car is the Cupra Ateca, a high-performance mid-sized SUV. Under the bonnet sits a 2.0-litre petrol engine making 296bhp, which is shared with the Seat Leon Cupra and various other Volkswagen Group vehicles such as the Golf R. Performance is impressive for what is a large car, with the 0-60mph sprint taking 5.2 seconds and a top speed registered at 152mph. The engine's mated to a seven-speed DSG automatic gearbox, which Cupra says has been engineered to offer quicker and smoother changes. Power goes to all four wheels, and there are six drive modes to choose from – Cupra mode is for fast driving, improving engine response and volume, and stiffening the suspension. On the outside, the regular Ateca has been given a mild reworking to give a sportier look, with a new body kit, black brake callipers, quad-exit exhaust and 19-inch diamond-cut



Inside Alcantara is used as a trim finish



Performance is impressive for what is a large car alloy wheels. The new Cupra logo, which is designed to look like a tribal drawing, is present in copper at the front, back and on the wheels. Inside, Alcantara is used on the door panels and seat upholstery, the steering wheel is covered in leather, and various trim pieces are



The Cupra badge has been used for Seat's go-faster models, but it was revealed last year it be a separate brand

with 296bhp, 4Drive and a new seven-speed DSG gearbox. "It is the best example of balance between sportsmanship, fun at the wheel and ease of use in everyday life." The Cupra brand has an aggressive growth strategy. At the Ateca's launch in Barcelona, it revealed that it was working on hot versions of the Cupra hatchback and estate, and was taking over the Cupra TCR racing programme. Cupra versions of the Ibiza and Arona are potentially in the works, as well as three as-yet unconfirmed models, which could take the range to 10 by the end of 2018.

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Some vehicles are rising in value due to demand

Top used car buys from CAP HPI

Analysis of the used car market by data experts at hpi shows that some vehicles are rising in value due to strong demand.

A combination of factors including the efficiency and low running cost of smaller city cars, a surge in demand for petrol, hybrids and electric vehicles and the continued popularity of SUVs has helped some vehicles to increase in value.

Experts at cap hpi report that this demand helped used car values rise by 0.4% in March with average values increased by 1.2% since the turn of the year, compared to a decline in values of 0.7% last year. The previous strongest year was 2014 when values increased by 0.8%.

A three-year-old Skoda Citigo with 30,000 miles is now worth around £700 more than the same model would have been worth a year ago. There is a similar picture for many other petrol cars of this size, with the Kia Picanto, SEAT Mii and Toyota Aygo all standing out.

A three-year-old Citigo bought in March 2017, with 30,000 miles on the clock, driven for a year adding a further 10,000 miles, would be worth close to £200 more than what the buyer paid for it.

Strength

The EV sector has shown similar strength with cars such as the Peugeot Ion, Renault Zoe, Smart Fortwo Electric and the Citroen C-Zero following a similar pattern, these being both EVs and city cars, hence the popularity.

SUVs now account for almost a third of all new car registrations – a considerable increase over the last 10 years. This increasing demand is replicated in the used car market, and values have held up well recently, particularly for medium and small-sized SUVs.

Darren Martin, head of current valuations at cap hpi said: “What we are seeing is some cars in particular sectors increasing in value over a relatively short period. The scale of this is unprecedented as cars are generally regarded as a depreciating asset. Some consumers are now starting to reap the rewards of picking up a vehicle 12 months ago, putting 10k miles on the clock and still seeing the vehicle’s value rise very steadily

“The sectors showing the main areas of appreciating values continue to be city cars, superminis and lower medium-sized cars.

“Also, some petrol and hybrid SUV prices in the used market have shown real strength in recent months – there is strong demand and currently relatively low supply. Drivers are beginning to warm to EVs as confidence grows in availability and reliability. The increase in demand for smaller vehicles that are pushing up values is partly as a result of consumers downsizing but also a desire for petrol vehicles.”



A three-year-old Skoda Citigo with 30,000 miles is now worth around £700 more than the same model would have been worth a year ago

Combination of contrasting virtues that work together very well indeed

By John Griffiths

I may have been in something of a minority when the 'Beast from the East' hit and I found myself wishing for a bit more snow.

Selfish, maybe, but I was thinking mainly of something to give the 4x4 test car sitting on the drive a proper test. As it was, the new Land Rover Discovery shrugged off the Beast's best in a 'nothing to see here' sort of way.

But I had no doubts about its abilities, having previously driven the same peerless all wheel drive system in the smaller Discovery Sport up an Icelandic volcano. In winter.

Its disdain for a British winter is the mark of the Discovery. It is supremely competent, equally adept at sandy deserts, at frozen wastes, and at motorway cruising as it is at country lanes.

At £55,595 for the high specification HSE test car it isn't anyone's idea of cheap.

But it ticks so many boxes. A champion of off-road driving, a well equipped and comfortable executive express, a big family car capable of carrying seven adults or more cargo than many vans, and a workhorse which can tow the largest caravans or horseboxes.

Limit

For the record its legal limit for the road is 3,500kg for a braked trailer – but last autumn a new V6 Discovery towed a 110-tonne 'road train' through 16 kilometres of Australian bush roads.

In fact it's all the car you would ever need (unless a sporty two-seater is your desire).

The test car was powered by a 2.0 litre SD4 (four cylinder turbo diesel), which doesn't seem a lot for a vehicle weighing over two tonnes. There are also larger V6 diesel and petrol options.

But the SD4 (also used in a number of Jaguars) is rather efficient, producing 240bhp and, perhaps more importantly, a hefty 500Nm of torque from just 1,500rpm. Combined with an eight speed automatic gearbox, it means the Discovery pulls strongly from low speeds and is particularly smooth (you're unlikely to feel the changes) and quiet, as it's usually running at below 2,000rpm. That's good for economy, too.

It will, according to official figures, accelerate from a standstill to 62mph in a little over eight seconds but you see the best of its performance on the move, with rapid downchanges and a rather surprising surge of acceleration when you press down with your right foot to overtake.

It's official fuel average is 43.5mpg but my average was just over 33: that may give a rather false impression as at least half the test was carried out in conditions where speeds were relatively low and the taller gears didn't come into play that much. The CO2 rating is 171g/km.

The range starts at £45,895 for the S model, but in



The Discovery is supremely confident, equally adept at sandy deserts at frozen wastes and motorways this class many buyers will go for the significantly higher specification HSE, like the test car.

It is in the luxury class, from the comprehensive digital instruments and central colour screen controller to the deep Windsor leather seats – even the three second row seats can be electrically reclined. There's plenty of elbow room too, as the Discovery is one of the widest cars in its class. It is certainly big – if you have a memory like mine you won't have any trouble spotting it in a supermarket car park.

Capable

The third row pair of seats are also power operated, folding down into the boot floor when not in use, but capable of comfortably accommodating a pair of six-foot adults. The boot varies in size from 258 with seven people on board to a van-like 2,406 litres with the second and third tow folded down.

An unusual but thoughtful feature is the slide out 'platform' in the boot: capable of seating up to three under the large, power-operated tailgate, it can be your own picnic table or 'grandstand' for watching outdoor events in comfort.

The ten-inch colour touchscreen is an intuitive and comprehensive control system for a whole range of features from seat heaters to audio and the latest connectivity wizardry including a wifi hotspot and smartphone apps.

Dual zone climate control, a premium stereo system, heated windscreen, electrically heated/folding mirrors,

heated washer jets and a panoramic sunroof are also on the long list of standard features. Safety systems are comprehensive, too, from lane assist to traffic sign recognition and intelligent speed limiter.

Land Rover's AWD system was augmented on the test car by the £1,125 extra 'capability pack', a sophisticated range of features which set up the Discovery for a wide range of conditions – snow, mud, rocks and so on – at the touch of a button. It also includes the company's all terrain progress control, a sort of off-road cruise control which allows the driver to concentrate on steering alone while keeping the vehicle at your chosen pace.

The electronically controlled air suspension comes under that system too – for example setting the ride height to maximum if you venture off-road – but you can also press a button to lower the car to make access easier. On the road, the suspension is an improvement on its predecessors in terms of comfort, with less roll if you're pushing on through the corners.

But while the Discovery, even with the smallest engine, is quite capable of getting a move on when required it doesn't really fit with the character of the car. It feels refined, even stately, in a way which conveys itself to the driver, too, as you sit there with commanding views, bettered by few.

There is a relaxing ambience about the Discovery, a air of gracefulness which doesn't naturally partner a vehicle as tough and competent in extreme conditions. But it's a combination of contrasting virtues which this Land Rover pulls off very well indeed.

Service to share charging points

Electric vehicle owners are a generous bunch, according to research by electric charging point database Zap-Map.

It says almost half of electric vehicle owners are willing and able to share their home charging point with other drivers – leading the firm to create a network of available chargers at homes and workplaces across the country.

Named Zap-Home and Zap-Work, the peer-to-peer charging networks allow domestic and business charge point owners to earn money by sharing their unit while it's not in use.

This could bring benefits not only to those with charging points already installed but could also provide an option to those not blessed with off-street parking or a workplace charger.

Owners can choose if their charge point is listed and may set a fee to cover the cost of the electricity. The owner is contacted directly via the app to arrange when to use the charger, and payment is made by PayPal.

Zap-Map says that more than 30 per cent of workplaces are also willing to share their chargers – those not already on an established public charging network.



Contact details and payment are shared in the same way, with Zap-Map pitching the service as a way for businesses to recover the costs of charge point installation faster.

Ben Lane, chief technical officer at

Zap-Map, said: “We are delighted to be bringing Zap-Home and Zap-Work to the UK EV market in response to the growing demand for charger sharing services.

“Of our 60,000 monthly user base, we know that around half are willing to

share their home point with other Zap-Map users. Businesses are particularly proactive, with five per cent of workplace charging points already being shared, either for employee use or as part of improving customer service.”



Dominique – wearing the Number 12 shirt with pride



Team lining up ready to represent their country with Dominique, third left



Ready to the flag on the Gold Coast



In action as Dominique gets stuck in

This is what makes hard work worth it

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

“IT’S times like this that make all the hard work worth it.” The words of Dudley-born Dominique Allen, who has flown out to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast after making the Team England basketball squad.

The 28-year-old landed in Australia after a 23-hour flight, to meet up with all the English athletes.

Allen and the rest of the squad were taking part in the a 10-day camp in Brisbane before the opening tip-off this week.

“We found out a few weeks ago but it was really weird because we didn’t know what time the team would be announced,” said Allen. “Everyone was checking their emails every few seconds all day – and I didn’t officially find out until 10pm.

“We were all texting each other but when I saw my name on the list I was so happy. It was really special when were all given our new England kits – I didn’t want to take it out the plastic!

“It never gets old, getting that phone call or email, putting on the jersey. I’ve never been to a Commonwealth Games either and it’s also nice representing England too.”

The Gold Coast Games mark the first time basketball has been included in the Commonwealths since 2006, when men and women’s teams both came away with a bronze medal.

Seeded

Both basketball teams will compete in preliminary matches in Townsville before the semi-finals and medal matches take place on the Gold Coast.

Team England women are in the seeded group up against Australia, Canada and Mozambique.

The top two teams in each seeded group (Pool A) progress to the semi-finals whilst the bottom two play-off against the top two teams from the unseeded group (Pool B) for the two remaining semi-final spots.

Selection for the women’s team was made during the Great Britain’s Eurobasket qualifiers, held in November and last month.

Allen, who still lives in Dudley and works in Birmingham as an assistant project manager at Atkins Civil Engineering, said: “We have the same coach for GB and England, so however well we performed in those decided if we would make the England squad. We didn’t have a specific camp or anything like the men.

“We have won two out of the four Eurobasket games too so we’re in a good position to qualify for that, with two more home games left to play in November.”

Allen attended Lutley Primary School and Windsor High School, both in Halesowen, before studying A-levels in Newcastle. Allen, whose father, Clive, was also an England international

“We were all texting each other but when I saw my name on the list I was so happy. It was really special when were all given our new England kits – I didn’t want to take it out the plastic!”

and is now head of basketball development at the West Bromwich Albion academy, said the team’s overall goal was to come back with a medal.

“I first started playing for England at U14 and U16 level and then headed out for the University Games in China in 2011,” she said. “Next year it was the Olympics in London with Team GB, which was also the first time I’d played with the senior squad and made the senior team.

“Since then I’ve mostly played with the GB squad since 2012 and I’ve got more than 70 caps.

“I’ve never been to Australia before but having played in the Olympics I remember what the Olympic Village was like and meeting up with all the other athletes.

Dream

“Things like that really make all the hard work worthwhile and to play the Commonwealths has always been a dream of mine.”

Allen’s journey to the top has been far from easy too as she commutes from her Dudley home to train with the Manchester Mystics two to three times a week, with Women’s British Basketball League matches at weekends, all while holding down a full-time job.

“I’ve played in Manchester for two years. We won the WBL Cup final last year and we’re constantly improving,” she said.

“It’s hard work, especially the commuting. I still live in Dudley and work in Birmingham, so I have to travel up to Manchester to train – and then there’s games at the weekends.

“Sometimes I can get picked up if the team is travelling through the Midlands but pretty much every game is an away game for me.”

Golf club call-up for new young members

A GOLF club is to host a junior recruitment evening to encourage children to get into the sport. Oxley Park Golf Club, in Stafford Road, will host the event for youngsters aged six and over on Friday, April 20, from 6.30pm.

The club is keen to recruit new members and encourage children to keep active. Craig Thomas, head professional at the club, said of the initiative: “We have invited children we work with through the junior clubs and our members’ children and grandchildren to come and join us.

“We have reduced the cost of our junior membership to encourage them into sport. It gets people more active. A lot of the younger generation think golf is seen as an old man’s sport – and we are trying to turn that around.

“At the event children will be engaging in fun games and there will be coaching on that evening. We can also talk to parents about the opportunities available for juniors at the club.”

Anyone interested in attending can call Craig on 01902 773989.

Battle of Baggies as boxers line up

TOMMY Langford and Jason Welborn meet at Walsall Town Hall for the British Middleweight Title on Friday, May 4.

The pair, both massive West Bromwich Albion fans, will battle it out for the Lord Lonsdale Belt in front of a sell-out crowd on BCB Promotions’ Neutral Ground: Battle of the Baggies.

Champion Langford collected the strap in 2016 with a comprehensive victory over Sam Sheedy before successfully defending the belt against Jack Arnfield earlier this year. Welborn, back with BCB Promotions, claimed the WBC International Silver Title last year and will be looking to add the British Title to his increasing cabinet.

“This is a massive fight,” said BCB’s Head of Boxing, Errol Johnson. “Tommy and Jason are two of the best middleweights in the country.

“Tommy is well known for being an Albion fan and Jason is a massive Baggie too so it adds a little bit of spice to the fight. The whole of West Bromwich and the surrounding areas will want to be at this one.”

Tennis club serves up free coaching

A WOLVERHAMPTON tennis club is serving up free coaching as it looks to increase its membership. The eight-week coaching course, staged at Linden Lea Tennis Club, is aimed at anyone, of any ability, over 21 years of age.

Sessions start at 7.45pm on Wednesday, April 25, and will be led by an approved Lawn Tennis Association coach.

The course is open for a maximum of 12 players. The club is also offering as an alternative, an invitation to join in ‘Mix-in Tennis’ on Tuesdays at 6.30pm during May which is also free.

To become a member of Linden Lea Tennis Club the first year’s subscription is only £60, as opposed to the normal membership fee of £90.

To enrol on the coaching course, visit the club – at Compton Park within the Wolves Academy complex – on Sunday April 22 at 3pm.

Alternatively, anyone interested can contact Alan Hughes, by telephone on 01902 425599 or via email at achughes@talktalk.net



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Byfield feels good ahead of ring return

NETHERTON boxer Les Byfield has a secret weapon he intends to put to full use when he returns to action at the Venue in Dudley on Saturday night.

It's 10 months on from when paid pugilists last performed under those lights. And Byfield has benefited from extra coaching as he prepares to get his year up and running.

He's trained under the watchful eye of respected Black Country boxing figure Ronnie Brown, who has led several champions from the area.

Now retired, Brown has worked with him and trainer Jason Astley at the Golden Gloves School of Boxing in Cradley Heath.

Byfield said: "We're working on little things all of the time, we've had Ronnie down and he'll tell me something to do, we get that right and we move on."

Strong

He now feels better than ever ahead of his second super featherweight six-rounder, which will come against Alec Bazza.

The Northern Irishman is winless in 35 attempts, but is strong and aggressive. He's seen the distance 31 times out of that.

Byfield, aged 30, will reach double figures for pro outings after they touch gloves and has lost just once in nine, a points setback against the capable Reece Smith on his debut.

"The Minefield" said: "It's good to be going back, I've good memories of the Venue and it would be nice to get a TKO again. That's my best memory of boxing as a pro."

Tickets, priced at £35 or £50 ringside, with waitress service are available by calling 07976 283 157 or Byfield directly on 07772 808 803 or via Facebook.

Last-ball victory in low-scoring affair

STOURBRIDGE edged out Enville on the last ball in the WCB Indoor League north division.

The Enville batsman struggled against tight Stourbridge bowling, limping to 83. Stourbridge's reply was steady but cautious, but they scraped home, winning on the final ball with the scores tied and after Enville failed to effect a run-out with the stumps on the floor.

Enville had bowled 25 wides in the low-scoring game.

The 2018 National Indoor championships Hagley put the league leaders to the sword and take on Stourbridge who take over top spot in their final match. After their epic victory at Lord's, Hagley enjoyed themselves, posting 60 without loss at halfway and only losing their first wicket at 100.

Coombes Wood made a bad start in reply, and Mike Langford was left last man standing, using the final overs as batting practice until caught by behind in the last over.

Youngest Albion player dies at 93



Hodgetts at Albion

ALBION'S youngest ever player has died aged 93. Frank Hodgetts, who was born in Dudley, made his first team debut in October 1940 at just 16 years and 26 days.

An outside left, he joined the Baggies aged 15 just as the Second World War was breaking out in September 1939.

Just over a year later he made his debut against Notts County

and went on to help Albion win the Midland Cup in 1944.

Hodgetts clocked up 70 post-war league and cup games for the Baggies before moving to Millwall for £6,000 in May 1949. In total he made 178 Albion appearances - scoring 34 times.

He subsequently spent four years from 1958 to 1962 as a coach at The Hawthorns, largely working with the club's

youngsters. One of his was a young lad called Tony Brown. Hodgetts, who lived in Hagley in later life, was a special guest at the unveiling ceremony for Bomber's statue back in 2014.

An Albion statement said: "The club is saddened to hear of the passing of Frank Hodgetts, who remains in our record books as the youngest player to represent Albion."



Hodgetts in 2014

YELTZ IN NO.9 DERBY DOUBLE

Halesowen Town 1 Stourbridge 0

HALESOWEN Town boss John Hill heaped praise on ex-Baggie Lee Hughes after the veteran striker rolled back the years in the No.9 Derby victory.

Hughes, aged 41, put in a relentless shift as the Yeltz ran out 1-0 winners, completing a league double over their fierce rivals.

He played a big part in the goal as his shot was saved by Matt Gould. The ball fell to Ahmed Ali who finished from close range.

"He's worked hard and done all of that as the lone striker," said Hill.

"We have to remember that he's got a lot of experience, but he's 41. He's still putting that kind of shift in, which is a credit to him."

Hughes and the rest of his Halesowen teammates celebrated with supporters following the final whistle.

Dished

A flare was thrown onto the pitch from the Glassboys end and a group of those fans also appeared to break a part of the fence behind the goal. Stuart Pierpoint was sent off for Stour too.

There were also seven yellow cards dished out, but both managers felt referee Darren Wilding had a bad day at the office.

Hill said: "You don't want to see a red card. It's a foul, but it's not a red. I thought the referee made his decision too early."

Glassboys gaffer Hackett added: "I'm very disappointed with the referee. The sending-off was harsh as there was a covering player."

Hughes said: "I'm used to it. I aimed to come here and use my experience, hopefully I've done that."

Both teams saw their Easter Monday games called off because of the weather. Stourbridge are at Hednesford on Saturday, while Halesowen visit Stafford Rangers.



Referee Darren Wilding dishes out one of seven yellow cards in a feisty derby clash

Meet magnificent seven Heathens riders

CRADLEY will hold their annual Meet The Riders event next Tuesday.

The evening, at Cradley Heath Liberal Club from 7.30pm, is a chance for supporters to hear from the seven riders who will represent the Motor Market Heathens during their 2018 National Trophy

campaign. Team Manager Will Pottinger said: "These nights are something that have proved to be popular ever since the club came back."

"We've got a very passionate fan base who love their speedway and they like to get to know who'll be riding for their club." Bradley Andrews, Kyle Bick-

ley, Conor Dwyer, Jason Edwards, Jordan Jenkins, Drew Kemp and Adam Roynon will all be in attendance.

Entry is £5 on the door with proceeds being split between the riders.

The new 2018 club race jacket and team clothing is also expected to be revealed.

Champs are straight back in the groove

INJURIES, breakdowns and a serious lack of sleep. Not the ideal start to the No Limits endurance championships but defending Black Country champions Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter are made of strong stuff.

And the Double Two Racing team went on to secure victory during round one at the Snetterton 300 circuit, in Norfolk, by two laps.

Wright, from Tividale, and Siviter, from Blackheath, claimed the Club 600 class title last year. And they were straight back to winning ways during the opening three-hour race.

Wright said they were not even sure if they would be racing until the day of the race. He had been recovering over the winter after suffering a broken collarbone in October and only climbed back on his bike in Cartagena, Spain, in February. Then, just as he was getting back to race fitness, team-mate Siviter injured himself after crashing while testing.

The day before the race, Siviter decided he was fit to ride but Wright suffered minor hand damage following another crash on test day.

To compound matters, Siviter, who had set out at 7pm the night before, came to a stop near Coventry when his motorhome broke down, meaning he arrived at the circuit on the back of a low loader at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Despite it all, the duo were soon back in the groove with Siviter posting the 10th quickest lap time during qualifying, the quickest in their class. The pair took the Club 600 class, second place in National 600 and 10th overall.

New course to get people out running

A BEGINNERS' running course is under starter's orders in Dudley. The course, set up by John Glover, of Dudley Kingswinford Running Club, starts on April 17.

They will operate on Tuesday and Thursday, meeting at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club at 7pm. Registration takes place at 7pm on April 12.

The course will take runners from zero to 5K over its 10-week period. The cost of the course is £35, to include a Hi-Tec T-shirt and entry into the Gavin Tipper 5K at the end of the course.

★★★

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Some vehicles are rising in value due to demand

Top used car buys from CAP HPI

Analysis of the used car market by data experts at hpi shows that some vehicles are rising in value due to strong demand.

A combination of factors including the efficiency and low running cost of smaller city cars, a surge in demand for petrol, hybrids and electric vehicles and the continued popularity of SUVs has helped some vehicles to increase in value.

Experts at cap hpi report that this demand helped used car values rise by 0.4% in March with average values increased by 1.2% since the turn of the year, compared to a decline in values of 0.7% last year. The previous strongest year was 2014 when values increased by 0.8%.

A three-year-old Skoda Citigo with 30,000 miles is now worth around £700 more than the same model would have been worth a year ago. There is a similar picture for many other petrol cars of this size, with the Kia Picanto, SEAT Mii and Toyota Aygo all standing out.

A three-year-old Citigo bought in March 2017, with 30,000 miles on the clock, driven for a year adding a further 10,000 miles, would be worth close to £200 more than what the buyer paid for it.

Strength

The EV sector has shown similar strength with cars such as the Peugeot Ion, Renault Zoe, Smart Fortwo Electric and the Citroen C-Zero following a similar pattern, these being both EVs and city cars, hence the popularity.

SUVs now account for almost a third of all new car registrations – a considerable increase over the last 10 years. This increasing demand is replicated in the used car market, and values have held up well recently, particularly for medium and small-sized SUVs.

Darren Martin, head of current valuations at cap hpi said: “What we are seeing is some cars in particular sectors increasing in value over a relatively short period. The scale of this is unprecedented as cars are generally regarded as a depreciating asset. Some consumers are now starting to reap the rewards of picking up a vehicle 12 months ago, putting 10k miles on the clock and still seeing the vehicle’s value rise very steadily

“The sectors showing the main areas of appreciating values continue to be city cars, superminis and lower medium-sized cars.

“Also, some petrol and hybrid SUV prices in the used market have shown real strength in recent months – there is strong demand and currently relatively low supply. Drivers are beginning to warm to EVs as confidence grows in availability and reliability. The increase in demand for smaller vehicles that are pushing up values is partly as a result of consumers downsizing but also a desire for petrol vehicles.”



A three-year-old Skoda Citigo with 30,000 miles is now worth around £700 more than the same model would have been worth a year ago

Combination of contrasting virtues that work together very well indeed

By John Griffiths

I may have been in something of a minority when the 'Beast from the East' hit and I found myself wishing for a bit more snow.

Selfish, maybe, but I was thinking mainly of something to give the 4x4 test car sitting on the drive a proper test. As it was, the new Land Rover Discovery shrugged off the Beast's best in a 'nothing to see here' sort of way.

But I had no doubts about its abilities, having previously driven the same peerless all wheel drive system in the smaller Discovery Sport up an Icelandic volcano. In winter.

Its disdain for a British winter is the mark of the Discovery. It is supremely competent, equally adept at sandy deserts, at frozen wastes, and at motorway cruising as it is at country lanes.

At £55,595 for the high specification HSE test car it isn't anyone's idea of cheap.

But it ticks so many boxes. A champion of off-road driving, a well equipped and comfortable executive express, a big family car capable of carrying seven adults or more cargo than many vans, and a workhorse which can tow the largest caravans or horseboxes.

Limit

For the record its legal limit for the road is 3,500kg for a braked trailer – but last autumn a new V6 Discovery towed a 110-tonne 'road train' through 16 kilometres of Australian bush roads.

In fact it's all the car you would ever need (unless a sporty two-seater is your desire).

The test car was powered by a 2.0 litre SD4 (four cylinder turbo diesel), which doesn't seem a lot for a vehicle weighing over two tonnes. There are also larger V6 diesel and petrol options.

But the SD4 (also used in a number of Jaguars) is rather efficient, producing 240bhp and, perhaps more importantly, a hefty 500Nm of torque from just 1,500rpm. Combined with an eight speed automatic gearbox, it means the Discovery pulls strongly from low speeds and is particularly smooth (you're unlikely to feel the changes) and quiet, as it's usually running at below 2,000rpm. That's good for economy, too.

It will, according to official figures, accelerate from a standstill to 62mph in a little over eight seconds but you see the best of its performance on the move, with rapid downchanges and a rather surprising surge of acceleration when you press down with your right foot to overtake.

It's official fuel average is 43.5mpg but my average was just over 33: that may give a rather false impression as at least half the test was carried out in conditions where speeds were relatively low and the taller gears didn't come into play that much. The CO2 rating is 171g/km.

The range starts at £45,895 for the S model, but in



The Discovery is supremely confident, equally adept at sandy deserts at frozen wastes and motorways

this class many buyers will go for the significantly higher specification HSE, like the test car.

It is in the luxury class, from the comprehensive digital instruments and central colour screen controller to the deep Windsor leather seats – even the three second row seats can be electrically reclined. There's plenty of elbow room too, as the Discovery is one of the widest cars in its class. It is certainly big – if you have a memory like mine you won't have any trouble spotting it in a supermarket car park.

Capable

The third row pair of seats are also power operated, folding down into the boot floor when not in use, but capable of comfortably accommodating a pair of six-foot adults. The boot varies in size from 258 with seven people on board to a van-like 2,406 litres with the second and third tow folded down.

An unusual but thoughtful feature is the slide out 'platform' in the boot: capable of seating up to three under the large, power-operated tailgate, it can be your own picnic table or 'grandstand' for watching outdoor events in comfort.

The ten-inch colour touchscreen is an intuitive and comprehensive control system for a whole range of features from seat heaters to audio and the latest connectivity wizardry including a wifi hotspot and smartphone apps.

Dual zone climate control, a premium stereo system, heated windscreen, electrically heated/folding mirrors,

heated washer jets and a panoramic sunroof are also on the long list of standard features. Safety systems are comprehensive, too, from lane assist to traffic sign recognition and intelligent speed limiter.

Land Rover's AWD system was augmented on the test car by the £1,125 extra 'capability pack', a sophisticated range of features which set up the Discovery for a wide range of conditions – snow, mud, rocks and so on – at the touch of a button. It also includes the company's all terrain progress control, a sort of off-road cruise control which allows the driver to concentrate on steering alone while keeping the vehicle at your chosen pace.

The electronically controlled air suspension comes under that system too – for example setting the ride height to maximum if you venture off-road – but you can also press a button to lower the car to make access easier. On the road, the suspension is an improvement on its predecessors in terms of comfort, with less roll if you're pushing on through the corners.

But while the Discovery, even with the smallest engine, is quite capable of getting a move on when required it doesn't really fit with the character of the car. It feels refined, even stately, in a way which conveys itself to the driver, too, as you sit there with commanding views, bettered by few.

There is a relaxing ambience about the Discovery, a air of gracefulness which doesn't naturally partner a vehicle as tough and competent in extreme conditions. But it's a combination of contrasting virtues which this Land Rover pulls off very well indeed.

Service to share charging points

Electric vehicle owners are a generous bunch, according to research by electric charging point database Zap-Map.

It says almost half of electric vehicle owners are willing and able to share their home charging point with other drivers – leading the firm to create a network of available chargers at homes and workplaces across the country.

Named Zap-Home and Zap-Work, the peer-to-peer charging networks allow domestic and business charge point owners to earn money by sharing their unit while it's not in use.

This could bring benefits not only to those with charging points already installed but could also provide an option to those not blessed with off-street parking or a workplace charger.

Owners can choose if their charge point is listed and may set a fee to cover the cost of the electricity. The owner is contacted directly via the app to arrange when to use the charger, and payment is made by PayPal.

Zap-Map says that more than 30 per cent of workplaces are also willing to share their chargers – those not already on an established public charging network.



Contact details and payment are shared in the same way, with Zap-Map pitching the service as a way for businesses to recover the costs of charge point installation faster.

Ben Lane, chief technical officer at

Zap-Map, said: “We are delighted to be bringing Zap-Home and Zap-Work to the UK EV market in response to the growing demand for charger sharing services.

“Of our 60,000 monthly user base, we know that around half are willing to

share their home point with other Zap-Map users. Businesses are particularly proactive, with five per cent of workplace charging points already being shared, either for employee use or as part of improving customer service.”

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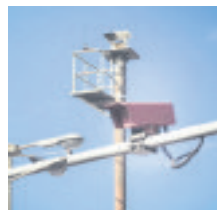
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Salary based on experience, Immediate start

Send CV to Info@cafos.co.uk

Courses

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- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info, or to book online: www.geopace.com

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

MUST BE SEEN

LANDROVER FREELANDER

2004, 103,000 miles, black, nine months MoT, reconditioned engine, new tyres, springs and shock absorbers, receipts to prove.

£2,500

01902 782642.

FOR A QUICK SALE

MERCEDES C180

KOMP

2006, 32,760 miles, 11 months MoT, nice condition, black.

£3,500 o.n.o.

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LOW MILEAGE

MINI COOPER

2006, silver with black roof, 69,200 miles, drives absolutely spot on, clean, tidy, any inspection welcome.

£2,250 ono.

07543 919304

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE

Diesel, 1.5, 5-dr, silver, March 2011 reg, 12 months MoT, electric windows and mirrors, sat nav, excellent order, new break pads and discs, serviced, careful lady owner. Any inspection / trial

£4,250.

01902 791976

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi

3dr, 2010,

black, 39,000 miles only,

new car forces sale.

£2,990.

07557 370800

or

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VAUXHALL CORSA SXi
 2007, 47,700 miles. ABS.

Electric windows.

Electric mirrors.

MoT. Central locking.

PAS. Alloys.

Very good condition.

£2,199 ono

07879403302



VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE
 2009, 36,500 miles, ABS,

electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, central locking, alloys,

998cc, very good condition.

£2,299 ono.

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VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6
 2006, 83K miles, FSH, two owners, abs, aircon, long MoT,

central locking, twin pan roof, sat nav, super condition.

£1,695 ono

07852 864472

Cars Under £1500



CITROEN XSARA PICASSO
 2005, 80,000 miles, ABS,

electric windows, central locking, PAS, CD, MoT, Sep 17,

2018, 1.6, 16v, petrol.

£899.

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FORD FIESTA FINESSE

2004, 3 Door hatchback, 70,080 Miles, Silver, MoT to July, central locking, pas, CD, Alloy Wheels. Reliable

runabout.

£495.00 ono

07854 691411



FORD KA STUDIO

08, low miles, 43k, February 2019 MoT, full leather trim, new wheel covers, very clean inside and out.

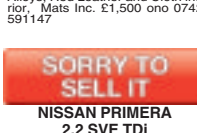
£695.

07821 649276.

MINI COOPER 2003 97,131, E/Windows, C/Locking, pas, Alloys, Red Leather and Cloth interior, Mats Inc. £1,500 ono 07421 531147

£695.

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2.2 SVE TDi

2004.

99,000 miles.

12 months MoT.

Regularly serviced.

High Spec.

One owner since 2006.

£995.

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RENAULT CLIO 1200

55 reg, 2-dr, petrol, 58,000 miles, 2 keys, FSH, MoT'd, EW,

ideal 1st car, excellent condition.

£995

07867 685569.

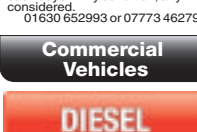


RENAULT MODUS 1.5 DIESEL

07 reg, silver, 5-dr, alloys, CD, PAS, runs and drives as it should, good condition. £30 road tax per year. 60 plus mpg.

£995 ono

07961 669911.



VAUXHALL COMBI VAN

06 reg., diesel, 1300 TDCi, blue, MoT, SH, side door, 2 keys, very clean.

£995

07867 685569.

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 Also Under 16's players required.
 Contact Paul 07592 065735.

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 GSOH, No ties, non smoker, solvent, classic car owner, nice home.
 Seeks respectable attractive female, 30-55, friendship / possible relationship
 Photo appreciated, will return.
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SWAP NUMBERS with local singles & couples seeking Adult Fun! 01902 489181 / Txt: 07860 021670

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 Willenhall area.
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BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
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Classified Ads

If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.

